

Turkish rescuers dig out 48 avalanche survivors

DIYARBAKIR, Turkey (R) — Rescue teams dug out 48 avalanche survivors on Saturday after fresh snowslides in south east Turkey killed at least 39 people and took the overall death toll to 205. Five of those rescued were road clearance workers who had survived four days huddled in their car after a snowslide buried it. But fresh avalanches hit the mainly-Kurdish region on Saturday and officials said that with blizzards hampering rescue efforts hopes were fading of finding more people alive in a dozen villages buried on Friday. "Our job is in the hands of God. Roads to most villages are cut by snow. Some of them are still under the threat of fresh snowslides," said Nurettin Guven, deputy governor of Sirnak province. "We should be emptying the villages to avoid further deaths but what can you do when there are thousands of them?" he said, adding that the region was under 4.5 metres of snow. The deputy governor of the south east region, Ahmet Erturk, said the death toll from snowslides this month had reached 205 after two more bodies were found in Sirnak's Akcay village. An avalanche killed 31 people there on Friday.

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordan Press Foundation
جوردان تايمز يومية سياسية تصدر بالانجليزية عن المؤسسة الصحفية الاردنية الراي

Volume 17 Number 4926

AMMAN SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 9, 1992, SHA'BAN 5, 1412

Price: Jordan 100 fils; Saudi Arabia 1.50 riyals; UAE 1.50 dirhams

Palestinian woman's heart fails as Israeli soldiers open fire

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (R) — Israeli troops fired rubber bullets at the car of a Palestinian woman rushing her mother to hospital in the occupied West Bank on Saturday. The woman was wounded and her 60-year-old mother died instantly of a heart attack, Palestinian sources said. The Palestinian sources said the woman, Na'ima Rabaia, 37, had permission from a soldier to leave her house in Irtas near Bethlehem and take her sick mother Bahiya to hospital. Rabaia was wounded in the face.

3 robbers beheaded in Riyadh

RIYADH, Saudi Arabia (AP) — Three men were beheaded Friday for armed robbery on a house where they also forced the landlady to be photographed in the nude for blackmail, the interior ministry announced. The state said that the three were convicted by the Islamic court of "spreading evil and violating the sanctities of homes" and thereby were beheaded. It named the three but did not give their nationalities.

Sudanese bakery seized

KHARTOUM (R) — Sudanese authorities have seized a Khartoum bakery because its loaves were too small, a newspaper said on Saturday. On Monday the government raised the price of a loaf from 50 piastres to 1.25 pounds and ordered its weight cut by half to 60 grammes (two ounces). The deputy governor of Khartoum state, Colonel Yousif Abdul Fatah, ordered the offending baker to stand trial before a public court. His bakery will now be run by the popular committee of the area, Al Sudan Al Hadith (modern Sudan) reported.

3 fishermen drown off Lebanon

BEIRUT, Lebanon (AP) — Three fishermen drowned when gale-force winds swept them into the stormy sea off northern Lebanon, police said Saturday. In Turkey, the death toll from avalanches the day before climbed further. A police spokesman said the three were "swallowed by the water" off the northern port of Tripoli on Friday. Their bodies were washed ashore later. Rescue workers were trying to open up the roads leading to villages cut off by the snow in east Lebanon's Bekaa valley and the mountains to provide bread, fuel and other supplies.

Egypt arrests owners of opinion poll firm

CAIRO (R) — Egyptian authorities have arrested the owners of a company that ran opinion polls on Islamic politics and charged them with belonging to an illegal organisation, security sources said on Saturday. Security police raided the offices of a Cairo computer firm owned by the three defendants and found two boxes containing completed questionnaires on issues such as price rises and Islamic political movements, the sources added. State prosecutors had charged the three with "belonging to an illegal organisation" and detained them pending further investigations, the sources said.

French police object to guarding Michel Aoun

NICE (R) — France's police union said on Saturday it resented having to guard exiled Lebanese Christian leader Michel Aoun and suggested the money and manpower would be better spent elsewhere. General Aoun, who led a bloody campaign from 1988 to 1990 to expel Syrian forces from Lebanon, lives in a luxury villa overlooking the sea in the southern French port of Marseille. "There are 180 policemen taking turns in six-hour shifts to guard him permanently," said Philippe Lebrun, leader of the independent National Police-men's Union, told the newspaper Nice-Matin. "That means 180 less men on the streets."

U.S., Israel fail to agree on loan guarantees

WASHINGTON (R) — The United States and Israel, deeply divided over Israeli settlements in the occupied territories, failed on Friday to agree on terms for the Jewish state to receive \$10 billion in U.S. loan guarantees.

Secretary of State James Baker discussed the issue with Israeli Ambassador Zalmay Shoval, but the two could not agree on Washington's insistence that Israel stop building new houses in settlements in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

"There is agreement on some points. There is not agreement on some other points," Mr. Shoval told reporters after the meeting. Mr. Shoval said Israel did not think settlements ought to be linked to what Israel views as its request for purely humanitarian aid to absorb hundreds of thousands of immigrants from the former Soviet Union.

But he added, "obviously, that view is not entirely shared by the United States."

The two agreed to meet again after Mr. Baker's return from the former Soviet Union around Feb. 18. Mr. Shoval said he still believed the United States wanted to help Israel meet the immigration challenge in principle.

The envoy had been expected to offer a slowdown of the settlement drive, but no freeze, in

exchange for the desperately needed funds which Israel needs to help its tottering economy bear the strains of the mass immigration.

But Jewish leaders seemed pessimistic that an agreement would be possible because of the thorny issue of settlements, to which Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir is committed but which the United States wants stopped.

Senator Patrick Leahy, a Democrat from Vermont who met Mr. Baker immediately after Mr. Shoval, told reporters: "I think (an agreement) is possible, but it is not possible today. The parties are far enough apart that it is not possible."

Mr. Leahy pushed his plan to reduce U.S. loan guarantees by one dollar for every dollar Israel spends on settlements, but said agreement must be reached by March 31, when a temporary measure to fund U.S. foreign policy runs out.

An Israeli official in Washington said Israel was ready to accept the Leahy formula if it could agree with Washington exactly what would be covered.

He said Mr. Shoval and Mr. Baker also agreed Israel and the United States would begin talks immediately on reforming Israel's economy, another U.S. condition for providing the aid.

But the official said Israel was not prepared to accept political dictates in exchange for the loan guarantees.

"Today it's settlements, tomorrow it may be something altogether different," the official said.

Mr. Leahy noted that President George Bush has said he will veto any bill that allows settlements in the occupied territories.

"It does not take a rocket scientist to know that at a time when foreign aid itself is probably the least popular item that Congress will face this year, that no Congress is going to pass a foreign aid bill over presidential veto," Mr. Leahy said.

At the first Baker-Shoval meeting two weeks ago, Mr. Baker proposed a formula whereby Israel could complete the 9,000 housing units in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip currently under construction but not build more.

Some 100,000 settlers already live among the 1.75 million Palestinians in the territories and control much of the available land.

Even the powerful American Jewish community is ambivalent about settlements and is making no major push to lobby for the

(Continued on page 5)

30 killed since Friday; hundreds arrested FIS, Algerian security forces locked in street battles

ALGIERS (Agencies) — Security forces opened fire in Algiers on Saturday as Muslim fundamentalists, undaunted by heavy casualties, went back on the streets to pursue their campaign against the country's new military-backed rulers.

About 30 people have been killed and more than 100 wounded since clashes broke out across the country after weekly prayers on Friday. Most of the casualties were youngsters demanding a return to election and the release of fundamentalist leaders.

Gunfire rang out in at least three suburbs of the capital on Saturday and supporters of the Islamic Salvation Front (FIS) set fire to vehicles commandeered for barricades, witnesses said.

"Lorries and light trucks have been overturned to make barricades," said one witness in the FIS stronghold of Kouba. "They are still burning this afternoon."

In Mountain City, a housing estate near the southern suburb of Babcarbar, green flags symbolising the Islamic state hung from the balconies of several blocks of flats, he added.

An Islamic state is the main objective of the FIS, which won 188 of the 232 seats decided in the first round of general elections in December. The authorities cancelled the second round in January to prevent a fundamentalist victory.

"No to military dictatorship. We will not forget the blood that has been spilled" someone had painted on a wall in Mountain City in blood-red letters. Riot police, guarded by colleagues with automatic weapons, were dismantling a barricade of burning vehicles nearby.

Fresh clashes also erupted on Saturday in Barika in the east of the country, in Tiaret southwest of Algiers and in two districts in the eastern mountain town of Batna, where 14 people have been killed and 66 wounded in clashes since Tuesday.

But the violence appeared to be less widespread than on Friday, when it rocked most of Algeria's 20 largest towns.

The 30 dead include at least eight in Algiers, five in Oum El Bouaghi, 400 km to the south-east, and two in each of Constantine, Barika and Khenchela, also in the east, Algiers radio and the Algerian news agency APS said.

At least two members of the security forces have been killed — a gendarme in Fouka Marine west of Algiers and a policeman in Constantine, the radio said.

Troops and police, enforcing the new high council of state's ban on political activity in mosques, arrested hundreds of FIS

fundamentalists after prayers on Friday.

The latest detainees include Abdul Kader Moghni, the imam of a FIS-dominated mosque in the Algiers suburb of Bal El Oued and one of the winners in the parliamentary elections in December, APS and the FIS said.

Bechir Touil, president of the Alger people's assembly, the local council elected in 1990, was arrested on Thursday night, the FIS added.

A FIS official said telephone lines to the front's headquarters in Algiers were cut on Saturday. The fundamentalist movement's main leaders have been in jail since a previous wave of arrest last June.

The evening newspaper El Messa said it expected the authorities to declare a state of emergency this week, ahead of the march in Algiers called by the FIS for next Friday.

The Algiers authorities have banned the march.

A state of emergency is declared when the country "faces imminent peril."

Mr. Moghni's family did not know why he had been arrested, although the government has banned political activity and public assembly at mosques.

One man died early Saturday

(Continued on page 5)

France deplores Levy's remarks Habash pledges to continue fighting for Palestinian cause

PARIS (AP) — Palestinian leader George Habash, speaking in a clear and apparently healthy voice, on Saturday thanked his supporters for their help during his detention in France and pledged to continue fighting for a Palestinian homeland.

"Dr. Habash, in a phone call to the Paris-based Arabic service of radio Monte Carlo, denounced his detention as orchestrated by supporters of Israel."

"I thank all the friends who demonstrated against the aggressive attack which I was subject to by some hateful parties that cooperate with the Zionist enemy," he said in a broadcast monitored in Cyprus.

Dr. Habash, leader of the

Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, spoke in his usual strong, clear voice without any audible signs of health problems.

French officials allowed Dr. Habash to leave France after a brief detention, saying he was too sick to speak to investigators about the discovery of an arms cache in the Fontainebleau forest near Paris that has been linked to the PFLP.

The radio statement comes only three days before France's Socialist government faces a censure motion for letting Dr. Habash into France.

Dr. Habash's healthy voice and aggressive words are certain to fuel the scandal that has rocked the government.

On Wednesday, Israeli Foreign

Minister David Levy accused France of "bad faith" for letting Dr. Habash leave a day after Israel said it would prepare a request for his extradition.

The French government protested on Friday against Levy's remark that it "broke every rule" by releasing Dr. Habash.

"The French government strongly deplores the remarks by Mr. David Levy... before the Knesset," the foreign ministry said in a statement.

It said the French ambassador in Tel Aviv would lodge a formal complaint with the Israeli government.

"France's good faith and determination to combat terrorism cannot be called into question."



The Associated Press moved the photo of Suha Tawil who, according to her family sources, wed Palestine Liberation Organisation Chairman Yasser Arafat recently. One of the sources said the couple had been married for a few weeks now, but that the family would not officially announce the marriage until the 63-year-old chairman of the PLO declared it himself. An official announcement was expected in a day or two, Raymond Tawil, the "bride's" mother was quoted as saying last week. There was no explanation, however, as to why such an announcement had been delayed this far. Suha Tawil, 28, had been working as an economic adviser to Mr. Arafat, based as he is in Tunis.

Israelis kill 3 Palestinian gunmen in Lebanon

MARJAYOUN, Lebanon (R) — Israeli soldiers killed three Palestinian guerrillas in South Lebanon on Saturday when they tried to enter the Jewish state's self-declared "border security zone" there, security sources said.

The radical Fatah Revolutionary Council (FRC), led by Abu Nidal, claimed responsibility for the attack saying it was intended to show opposition to Arab-Israeli peace talks.

An FRC statement released in Beirut said "more than 20 enemy soldiers were killed or wounded" in the clash.

But the security sources said two Israeli soldiers were wounded in the machinegun duel between an Israeli patrol and the guerrillas near the village of Brasheet.

Iran says weapons no threat to Arabs, U.S. shall not become 'gendarme of region'

NICOSIA (Agencies) — Iran said on Saturday its military forces are no threat to its Gulf neighbours but vowed not to allow the United States become the "gendarme of the region."

Supreme leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei said Western reports of Iran amassing sophisticated weapons were "exaggerated and misleading," the Iranian news agency IRNA reported.

"The arsenal of the Islamic Republic, whatever it used to be or is, poses no danger to Persian Gulf littoral states," he said in a speech to air force officers.

Mr. Khamenei, whose country condemned a 10-year defence pact Washington signed with Kuwait last year, said reports of an Iranian arms buildup were aimed at frightening Gulf Arabs who are warming towards Iran after its neutrality in the Gulf war.

"We have never wanted, and do not want, to be the gendarme of the region," he said. "Nor will we allow any power either regional or from outside — especially the United States which is trying to play the gendarme — to assume that role."

Iran, with 58 million people, is more populous than all Gulf Arab states combined. It has the longest shoreline in the Gulf and the biggest army in the region after Iraq's defeat in Kuwait last year.

Iran disclosed on Wednesday its air force had deployed Soviet-made Sukhoi-24 attack planes and F-7 aircraft — a Chinese version of the Soviet-designed MiG-21 fighter.

In another development, Tehran asked the International Atomic Energy Agency to cooperate with Iran as it rebuilds the war-damaged Bushehr nuclear power station.

Iran said that nuclear equipment Argentina refused to deliver was intended for peaceful purposes.

An Argentine foreign ministry official said on Friday an S-18



Bodies of two Palestinians found in Gaza Strip

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (AP) — The bodies of two Palestinians slain by masked men were found in the occupied Gaza Strip on Saturday, the Israeli army and Arab reporters said. The motives for the slayings were not known. In the Khan Yunis refugee camp, Arab militants killed 22-year-old Wael Suleiman Lamur with pistol shots as he walked in the street, Palestinian reporters said. The army confirmed the death and said it was being investigated. In Gaza City, the body of 21-year-old Fawzi Abu Sido was found in an orange grove, Arab reporters said. Abu Sido was kidnapped from his home by masked men Friday night and was axed and knifed to death, the reporters said. His brother, Wafik, is an advisor to the Palestinian team at the Middle East peace talks. Israel radio quoted local residents as saying political disagreements apparently were not a motive for the slaying. The army cited possible criminal motives. In Gaza's Rafah refugees camp, masked men broke into a mosque Friday afternoon and attacked a local mukhtar, or traditional leader, with axes, an army official said. The victim, Abdul Mansour Abu Karshoen, 65, suffered serious head injuries, the official said.

Akawi's funeral turns into national demonstration Detention triggered heart attack-doctor

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (AP) — Thousands of Palestinian mourners, shaking fists and chanting "struggle, struggle," on Saturday marched behind the open coffin of an Arab activist who died in an Israeli prison amid allegations of torture.

The Jerusalem funeral of Mustafa Akawi, 35, turned into a demonstration of nationalist fervor. His body was draped in an outlawed Palestinian flag and mourners waved flags and chanted the Palestinian anthem "Homeland, Homeland."

Hundreds of Israeli riot police, some on horseback, lined the procession route from Akawi's

home in the Wadi Joz area to the Al Aqsa Mosque, one of Islam's holiest shrines, several blocks away. There were no clashes between mourners and police.

Police set up roadblocks around Jerusalem and urged away Palestinians from the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip en route to the funeral.

Akawi died in a Shin Bet secret service lockup in the occupied West Bank town of Hebron on Tuesday, a day after complaining to a military judge he was severely beaten by his interrogators. The judge ordered a medical

(Continued on page 5)

Bush authorises covert activities to oust Iraqi president

WASHINGTON (AP) — President George Bush, still seeking Iraqi President Saddam Hussein's downfall a year after the Gulf war, has authorised intensified covert activities toward that goal, a source said Saturday.

Mr. Bush recently upgraded a so-called presidential finding he had earlier signed authorising such activities as propaganda broadcasts and expanded contacts with opposition figures in Iraq, according to the source, who spoke on condition of anonymity.

Mr. Bush on Friday would not discuss any specifics about anti-Saddam efforts, but said, "I'd like to see him out of there. I'll just leave it right there."

He made the remarks to reporters at Andrews air force base outside Washington as he returned from California.

When asked, he would not say whether the purpose of CIA Director Robert Gates' trip to the Middle East this week was to discuss the Iraqi leader's ouster with regional leaders.

But in apparent reference to a New York Times report Friday that Mr. Gates was conferring on ways to hasten President Saddam's downfall, Mr. Bush said: "Don't believe everything you read in the newspapers."

The Los Angeles Times, meanwhile, reported Saturday that the Bush administration has authorised the CIA to undertake covert action designed to weaken or topple President Saddam, and has set aside \$30 million for the effort.

The Wall Street Journal on Friday reported the figure under discussion had been \$20 million to expand the administration's latitude and give Congress notice in case overt action is required later in response to an anti-Saddam coup attempt.

U.S. officials have said Mr. Gates, who took over at the CIA in November, is holding talks in the Middle East to assess Presi-

dent Saddam's hold on power in Iraq and discuss other regional developments.

The officials said that while the trip is primarily to acquaint Mr. Gates with his intelligence counterparts in Egypt, Israel and Saudi Arabia, he was expected to bring up the situation in Iraq, where the Iraqi leader maintains control despite an economic embargo imposed by the United Nations.

Mr. Bush said he is worried by Iraq's failure to comply with the terms of United Nations resolutions, including those that give U.N. inspectors the right to examine Iraq's nuclear facilities.

"He (President Saddam) has not fully complied with U.N. resolutions. That's very, very clear. And he ought to do it, in many, many ways," including the assets taken from Kuwait during the Iraqi occupation, Mr. Bush said.

Rolf Ekeus, chairman of the U.N. special commission overseeing the elimination of Iraq's weapons of mass destruction, said in a letter released Friday that Baghdad is not fully cooperating with the commission.

He expressed particular concern that Iraq may still possess Scud missiles, such as those used against Israel and other Middle Eastern countries in the Gulf war.

"Really, what he ought to do is take care of his people," Mr. Bush said, noting that the United Nations lifted an embargo on oil exports to allow Iraq to raise capital for humanitarian assistance to its people.

"But he doesn't want to do that. He's brutal and cruel. And the best thing that could happen would be for him to go out of there so we could start new relations with Iraq."

"The U.N. as I found when I was up there, is more determined than ever to see that he does comply with the U.N. resolutions," Mr. Bush said.

Saudis deny detention, dissent in kingdom

NICOSIA (R) — Saudi Arabia denied on Saturday reports in the Arab and Western press that opposition figures were arrested in the conservative kingdom.

"In response to the circulation of fabricated reports in some Arab and Western media about detention and differences in opinion in Saudi Arabia, we reaffirm anew that all these are categorically unfounded," an unnamed spokesman told the Saudi press agency.

He said the reports were "insinuated by known hostile and malicious parties" an apparent reference to Iraq and Israel.

"We renew our call to the media which published (these reports) to seek accuracy," SPA quoted him as saying.

Gulf-based diplomats have said that some Saudi theologians, judges and religious teachers have signed a petition rejecting peace talks with Israel, terming

the U.S.-sponsored process as tantamount to capitulation.

Responding to the petition, the kingdom's grand mufti Sheikh Abdul Aziz Bin Baz, has denounced those who challenge the Islamic credentials of the powerful ruling Al Saud family.

He has also lambasted what he described as secret gatherings within and outside mosques and attempts to spread "lies and false rumours" in sermons taped and distributed in the kingdom.

Saudi Arabia, one of Washington's most important allies in the Middle East, took part in last month's multilateral talks in Moscow on regional economic cooperation, water sharing and peace treaties between Israel and her Arab neighbours.

The kingdom was used as a springboard for the U.S.-led military coalition that evicted Iraq from Kuwait in last year's Gulf war.

MIDDLE EAST NEWS IN BRIEF

Lebanese president to Syria for talks with Assad

BEIRUT (R) — Lebanon's President Elias Hrawi left for Damascus on Saturday for Middle East talks with Syrian leader Hafez Al Assad. President Hrawi, accompanied by Foreign Minister Faris Bouez, left by a private jet from Beirut airport. Airport sources said, The two leaders would discuss their positions on further rounds of the Arab-Israeli negotiations. Beirut and Damascus boycotted last month's multilateral talks in Moscow saying no progress had been made on substantial issues in the bilateral negotiations in Washington. Lebanon has yet to answer on an invitation it had received on Thursday to take part in the Washington meetings, expected to resume on Feb. 24. Lebanon wants an Israeli withdrawal from a border strip in the south in line with 1978 U.N. Security Council resolution 425.

Refinery workers ended protest — official

NICOSIA (R) — Workers at Tehran oil refinery began a hunger strike over wages last month, the first protest by oil workers reported since soon after the 1979 revolution, but an official said on Saturday the strike had now ended. The head of public relations at the oil ministry, Mohammad Hossein Abdolazizi, said up to 50 workers had taken part. They abandoned the hunger strike about two weeks ago after Oil Minister Gholamreza Aqazadeh met their representatives and promised to look into their demands, he told Reuters. It was the first official confirmation of any unrest in the oil industry in Iran, one of the world's biggest oil producers. Iran is suffering an acute fuel shortage, attributed by opposition groups to widespread strikes at several refineries. But Mr. Abdolazizi denied this, saying the protest was limited to the Tehran plant, Iran's third biggest refinery. "Their demands were generally about wages. It was a limited protest in terms of numbers and did not extend to sit-ins or strikes," Mr. Abdolazizi said by telephone from Tehran. "Thirty, 40 or 50 people refused to eat food, but work did not stop... you could call it a sort of hunger strike." Mr. Aqazadeh had told the ministry to draw up an improved wage structure by the end of the Iranian year on March 20, he added. The oil industry, dating back to the early years of the century, is one of Iran's oldest. Iranian governments have always been especially sensitive to protest by oil workers, who at crucial times have proved capable of stopping the flow of crude exports which bring in the bulk of Iran's hard cash. A strike late in 1978 shut down the industry and played a key role in the victory of the Islamic Revolution in 1979. Civil servants in other departments often complain that the oil ministry uses its privileged position to pamper some of its 100,000 employees with higher salaries and benefits. The refinery protest was the first in the oil industry since tensions in 1979 and 1980, when purges were carried out in all economic sectors. Iranian media largely ignored the protest, which started at about the beginning of January. On Jan. 9 the headline newspaper Salam reported a gathering in which one striking worker said they had been forced to take action because oil ministry officials had ignored their repeated demands for more than a year. Another worker complained that, while workers had shown restraint during the hard days of the 1980-88 war with Iraq, management had now deprived them of interest-free loans and other benefits envisaged in both oil ministry and labour ministry regulations.

Former Afghan premier shot and wounded in Kabul

KABUL (R) — Former Afghan Prime Minister Sultan Ali Kishitmand was shot and wounded by an unknown gunman on Friday as he attended prayers at a Kabul mosque. Vice-President Abdul Wahid Sarobi later told a crowd outside the Red Cross hospital, where Kishitmand was initially taken, that his life was not in danger. He was treated for a wound below one eye and then taken to a military hospital, Red Cross spokesman Guy Millet said. "Although it is a head wound and one always has to be careful he should be O.K. He was lucky, it could have been worse," he said. Kabul Radio said Kishitmand's unidentified attacker escaped from the Imam Hassan Mosque in a suburb south-west of Kabul. Kishitmand was prime minister for much of the 1980s. He was later made vice president. He resigned in July from the ruling Watan (homeland) Party and accused the Kabul leadership of paying only lip service to the rights of ethnic minorities. In an interview with Reuters in Kabul on Thursday, he called on the United Nations to ensure minority rights are fully protected before the implementation of a political settlement to the 13-year-old Afghan civil war. Ethnic Pushtuns have ruled Afghanistan for 250 years but the war has heightened political awareness among minorities and given them weapons to back their demands for a greater say. Kishitmand, a minority Hazara from Afghanistan's mostly Shia Muslim central region, said it was in the long-term interests of Pushtuns to share power.

Iranian charged in Denmark for smuggling illegal immigrants

COPENHAGEN (R) — An Iranian handed over by Germany has been charged with smuggling almost 200 illegal immigrants across the border into Denmark, police in the Danish border town of Padborg said on Friday. Amir Heidari was charged in court on Thursday shortly after being handed over to Danish police at a border crossing near Padborg. He was remanded in custody for four weeks, a police officer said. Denmark's Ritzau news agency said Heidari had been arrested in Frankfurt in May and charged with taking 67 illegal immigrants into Germany. The officer said Heidari, who lives in Sweden, was suspected of smuggling many other illegal immigrants across the border into Denmark and an investigation was under way. Ritzau said he was believed to be the leader of one of Europe's biggest cross-border human smuggling operations.

General Dynamics gets payment for Saudi contract

WASHINGTON (R) — General Dynamics Corp. has been awarded a \$157.8 million payment for full-scale development work on 315 front-line M-1A2 battle tanks for Saudi Arabia, the Pentagon said on Friday. The payment is part of a \$416.6 million contract awarded to the company two months ago to provide the upgraded tanks by March 31, 1994, the army said. They would be especially configured for desert warfare. The work is part of a \$3.1 billion Bush administration plan announced in 1990 to sell the Saudis 315 tanks, 30 tank recovery vehicles, Bradley fighting vehicles, trucks, support equipment and facilities for the army, according to Major Pete Keating, an army spokesman.

U.N. says Iraq may have Scud missiles

UNITED NATIONS (AP) — The United Nations said that Iraq may still have Scud missiles, despite international requirements that it destroy the weapons.

Iraq had not been cooperating fully with a U.N. commission overseeing elimination of its weapons of mass destruction, specifically when it came to eliminating the Soviet-designed Scud missiles, Rolf Ekeus, chairman of the U.N. commission wrote in a letter released Friday.

"There remains substantial uncertainty whether all missiles subject to Resolution 687, primarily Scud or Scud variants, have been declared as required," wrote Mr. Ekeus.

Resolution 687, approved last year, requires Iraq to destroy, remove or render harmless all its ballistic missiles of a certain range as well as repair and production facilities for the weapons.

The letter was attached to a report by U.N. Security-General

Boutros Boutros-Ghali that records several Iraqi violations of U.N. resolutions.

Dr. Boutros-Ghali's report details Iraq's refusal to cooperate fully with U.N. inspections of its nuclear, chemical and biological weapons facilities.

"The special commission can have no confidence that Iraq has disclosed the full scope and nature of its programmes for fissile material production and of its research and development efforts in respect of nuclear weapons," Mr. Ekeus said in the letter attached to Dr. Boutros-Ghali's report.

The Security Council reviewed the report Wednesday and decided not to lift sanctions against Iraq. Some diplomats hinted that even tougher punishment, such as military action, could be considered.

Iraq has repeatedly appealed for an end to the sanctions.

Egypt takes hands-off stand on Saddam's tenure

CAIRO (AP) — Egypt has reiterated its policy not to interfere in Iraq's internal affairs, disassociating itself on Saturday from reported U.S. efforts to overthrow President Saddam Hussein.

The restatement came in response to a report in the New York Times that Washington was consulting Egypt and Saudi Arabia about how to remove the Iraqi president.

"Egypt is not party to any plan aimed at overthrowing Iraqi President Saddam Hussein," the government said in an anonymous official statement to local reporters.

Quoting sources in President Bush's administration, the New York Times reported Friday that CIA Director Robert Gates is discussing with Egyptian and Saudi leaders diplomatic, military and covert efforts being mounted against President Saddam.

White House Press Secretary Marlin Fitzwater, travelling with President Bush in California, confirmed the Central Intelligence Agency chief's presence in the Middle East but would not comment further.

Egypt is a close friend of the United States and played a key role in helping Washington

fashion the military alliance that drove Iraqi occupation forces from Kuwait.

The Egyptian statement appeared designed to preserve Egypt's image among the Arabs by dispelling any impression that Cairo is ganging up with the United States against an Arab country on an internal issue.

Egyptian officials refused to discuss whether Mr. Gates has visited Egypt. Requests to the U.S. embassy for comment went unanswered.

"Egypt is pursuing a clear policy based on non-interference in the internal affairs of any Arab or foreign country," the government statement said. "It is sticking to its principles founded on respect for the will of peoples."

President Hosni Mubarak asserted in several newspaper interviews last year that whether President Saddam remains in power after his military defeat in the Gulf war was for the Iraqis alone to decide.

President Mubarak told the Israeli newspaper Maariv in November: "We continue to maintain that the president of any country is the responsibility of that country alone and no other country's."

OAU head pledges support for Somalia peace efforts

U.N. says Somalia talks to go ahead

NAIROBI (R) — A United Nations special envoy said on Friday that talks on ways to end Somalia's civil war would take place in New York next week even if warring factions did not attend.

"Even if they're not there the talks will go ahead... if they come it would be good because then we can talk about the nitty-gritty of a ceasefire," U.N. Under-Secretary-General James Jonah told reporters in Nairobi.

He said heads of the Organisation of African Unity (OAU), the Arab League and Islamic Conference Organisation would attend the talks along with U.N. Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali next Wednesday.

Thousands have been killed and wounded in nearly three months of vicious clan feuding between rival warlords Ali Mahdi Mohammed and Mohammed Farah Aided in the capital Mogadishu.

The Horn of Africa nation was first plunged into anarchy over a year ago when guerrillas ousted Dictator Mohammed Siad Barre and turned to fighting each other, carving up the state into tribal territories ruled by gunmen.

Mr. Jonah said Ali Mahdi had announced he would attend the talks and that Aided had promised to send a three-man delegation in his place, but it was still unclear whether the factions would be able to leave the war-torn country.

Mr. Aided has asked for the talks to be postponed and made no mention of discussing a ceasefire, Mr. Jonah added.

The U.N. envoy said the question of whether to send a foreign peace-keeping force if last month's ceasefire call by the Security Council fails to have any effect would be discussed at the New York talks.

Relief officials visiting Mogadishu reported that fighting was raging on. Calls are mounting for international troops to be sent in to impose a truce, by force if necessary.

In Lagos, Nigerian President Ibrahim Babangida, chairman of the Organisation of African Unity (OAU), said on Friday that Africa would try to help end the civil war in Somalia, state radio said.

Argentina bans sale of nuclear equipment to Iran

BUENOS AIRES, Argentina (R) — Argentina has cancelled an \$18 million deal to supply nuclear equipment to Iran because of concern it might be used to develop weapons, a foreign ministry official said this week.

"Argentina has a commitment to sell this type of equipment to countries that have signed safeguards, or international controls, so they can be relied on not to intend to develop nuclear weapons," the official told Reuters.

Iran has not signed a nuclear safeguard treaty.

"If we carried out this deal with Iran we would be no better than Cuba or Libya," he added.

Last month the Argentine government suspended a shipment of unspecified nuclear equipment to Iran, saying it wanted to review the contract. A provincial newspaper reported at the time that Argentina had suspended the \$18 million deal under pressure from the United States.

The Rio negro daily said the U.S. State Department had let Argentine Foreign Minister Guido Di Tella know that it was concerned that Argentina could be helping Iran to expand its nuclear programme.

The equipment which was to be shipped to Iran was manufactured by INVAP, jointly owned by the Argentine National Atomic Commission and the province of Rio Negro.

Argentina, which has Latin America's most developed atomic programme, helped Iran service the core of a nuclear plant in 1988.

Fierce snow, blockade intensify Kurds' suffering

ABOARD A U.S. ARMY UH-60 HELICOPTER OVER IRAQ (AP) — The harshest winter in 20 years is blocking delivery of relief supplies to thousands of Iraq's already suffering from an economic blockade imposed by Saddam Hussein.

"They're getting snow up to their dam roofs," said Col. Dick Naab, commander of the Western Military Coalition Office in northern Iraq.

He spoke to a reporter Saturday in a U.S. Army helicopter that dropped blankets and food parcels on villages barely peeking out from mountains of snow.

Since early January, U.S. helicopters have delivered more than 90 tonnes of flour, rice, cooking oil and other supplies to snow-bound Kurdish villages in northern Iraq. Much of the aid was contributed by relief organisations unable to transport it on roads that have become mere memories.

"They (Kurds) are in the same part of the world where they're having avalanches," Col. Naab said, referring to a recent disaster in nearby Turkey that claimed about 200 lives.

"The difference is here they have no means to report it." Between the snow and a four-months old government blockade, Col. Naab added, "you've got people on the brink."

A reporter glimpsed a few homes that appeared to have been virtually buried by the snow. Kurdish and coalition officials could only confirm one death due to exposure but said there could be many more.

From the air, much of northern Iraq is a sea of white, punctured by spindly tree branches and half-buried telephone poles in a communications system that has long since failed to work.

At Qonabasi, a village of half a dozen stone houses engulfed by snow, anxious residents and chil-

dren ran outside and waved wildly as the helicopter approached. A U.S. soldier tossed out blankets, cans of cooking oil and sacks of rice, which sank into the soft snow.

Residents of other villages watched in disappointment from roof tops when the aircraft passed them by.

The intense snowstorms of recent weeks are the latest misfortune for the long suffering Iraqi Kurds. Many of those hardest hit had only rebuilt their homes last fall, after returning from the Turkish and Iranian borders with the help of a U.S.-led allied force. Their dramatic flight last year, following their failed uprising against the Gulf war, had caught the attention of the world.

But, while the Kurds won control of a strip of northern Iraq, Saddam has been applying increasing economic pressure in recent months.

Archaeologists say new farming projects in Iraq threaten ancient sites

BOSTON (AP) — The Iraqi government is so desperate to feed its people it has started big farming projects that could inflict major damage on valuable archaeological sites.

"I kind of understand why they would want to go out and make the desert bloom," said Paul Zimansky, professor of archaeology at Boston University. "Given the strains in Iraqi society, nobody has time to worry much about antiquities."

Mr. Zimansky returned last month from Iraq, where he saw large-scale plowing and newly dug irrigation ditches on land

known to harbour archaeological sites.

He and his wife, Elizabeth Stone, a professor of anthropology at the State University of New York at Stony Brook, tried to visit the site of a Mesopotamian city they were excavating before the war.

But an area of cultivated land about 20 square kilometres blocked the way to the 4,000-year-old city of Mashkan-Shapir. They don't know if the ancient site, about 135 kilometres southeast of Baghdad, is intact.

"If a site like that has been plowed up, we have lost all that

information on how an old Babylonian city is organised," Mr. Zimansky said. "What we don't know, we can't put a price tag on."

Mesopotamia, in what is now the heart of modern Iraq, was one of the world's first civilisations.

Before the Gulf war, Iraq's agency overseeing antiquities had so much clout it could forbid military manoeuvres near an archaeological site, Mr. Stone said. Now the department has no working telephone and staff workers have to borrow cars.



Located on the Giza plateau just west of Cairo, the great Sphinx is one of the largest limestone carvings in the world. It stands 66 feet

high and is 240 feet long. The statue is of a crouched lion with the hooded head of a man.

Scientists clash over age of Egyptian sphinx

By Paul Rezer
The Associated Press

CHICAGO — Seismic studies that conclude the great Sphinx is 2,000 years older than traditionally believed were blasted as "pseudoscience" during a heated debate between experts.

Robert Schoch of Boston University told a meeting Friday of the American association for the advancement of science that he believes the great Sphinx was sculpted between 5000 and 7000 B.C., based on the erosion of the massive limestone carving.

The finding has outraged scholars of Egyptian history who say it disputes generations of archaeological research into the

great Sphinx and the civilisation that built it.

Located on the Giza plateau just west of Cairo, the great Sphinx is one of the largest limestone carvings in the world. It stands 66 feet high and is 240 feet long. The statue is of a crouched lion with the hooded head of a man.

Scholars of Egyptian history have long held that it was carved out of a solid limestone formation in 2500 B.C., during what is called the old kingdom fourth dynasty.

They say it bore the likeness of Pharaoh Khafre. A nearby tomb carved out of limestone is thought to have been built at the same time.

Mr. Schoch said Friday that his seismic studies clearly show that the Sphinx is much more weathered or eroded than the nearby tomb. If the tomb is dated at 2500 B.C., the great Sphinx has to be more than 2,000 years older, he said.

"The weathering profiles on the Sphinx are indications that something is different," he said. "You see very distinct differences in the seismic profile."

Mark Lehner, a University of Chicago archaeologist who has studied Egyptian history for more than 25 years, heatedly rejected Mr. Schoch's findings.

"You don't overthrow Egyptian history based on one phenomenon like a weathering pro-

file," he said.

Mr. Lehner and others argued with Mr. Schoch through an hour-long debate, through a news conference and then into a hallway confrontation where voices were raised and the words skated on the icy edge of scientific politeness.

The major fact disputing Mr. Schoch's conclusion, Mr. Lehner said, is the absence of any evidence that a civilisation advanced enough to carve the great Sphinx existed in Egypt from 5000 to 7000 B.C.

"If the Sphinx was built by an earlier culture, where is the evidence of that civilisation?" Mr. Lehner asked.

JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel: 77311-19

PROGRAMME TWO
17:30 Les Badaboks
17:45 Cosmoscope
18:10 L'Ecole des Fais
19:40 News in French
19:15 Carnet de notes
19:30 News in Hebrew
20:00 News in Arabic
20:20 Empty Nest
21:10 Doc. "Equinox"
22:00 News in English
22:20 Switched at Birth

PRAYER TIMES

05:01 Fajr
06:20 (Sunrise) Doha
14:53 Dhuhr
17:20 Maghreb
18:33 'Isha

CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church Swifeth Tel. 810740
Assumption of God Church, Tel. 632785
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624990
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440
De la Salle Church Tel. 661757

Terraviva Church Tel: 622366
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 623541
Anglican Church Tel. 625383. Tel. 628343
Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771331
Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 775261
Syrian Orthodox Church Tel. 771751
Armenian International Church Tel. 685326
Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 811295
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints Tel. 823824, 654932
Church of the Nazarene Tel. 675691.

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.

It will be cold, cloudy and rainy at times, with snow fall expected on high mountains. Winds will be southwesterly moderate. In Aqaba, winds will be northerly moderate and seas calm.

Min./Max. temp.
Amman 1/4
Aqaba 6/14
Deserts 0/6
Jordan Valley 7/11
Yesterday's high temperature: Amman 5, Aqaba 17. Humidity readings:

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

Amman 96 per cent, Aqaba 43 per cent.

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN:
Dr. Anwar Al Ashhab 602507
Dr. Abdul Hadi Tayem 620115
Dr. Joseph Imish 770560
Dr. Mohammad Mana 741444
Firas pharmacy 661912
Al Asara pharmacy 778336
Al Asara pharmacy 677055
Nairokh pharmacy 626372
Al Salam pharmacy 636730
Yaacob pharmacy 644945
Shamsani pharmacy 637660

IRBID:
Dr. Ayman Abul Hajja (-)
Al Shafar pharmacy 278025

ZARQA:
Dr. Khawar Ja'bari (-)

EMERGENCIES

Food Control Centre 637111
Civil Defence Department 661111
Civil Defence Immediate 843402
Rescue 630341
Civil Defence Emergency 199
Rescue Police 192, 621111, 637777
Fire Brigade 891228
Blood Bank 775121
Highway Police 843402
Traffic Police 896390
Public Security Department 63821
Hotel Complaints 605800
Price Complaints 661176
Water and Sewerage 897467
Complaints 897467
Municipality Complaints 787111
Telephone Information (directory assistance) 121
Overseas Calls 010230
Central Amman Telephone 623101
Repairs 623101
Abdullah Telephone Repairs 661101
Jordan Television 773111

Radio Jordan 774111
Water Authority 680100
Jordan Electricity Authority 813615
Electric Power Company 636381
RJ Flight Information 06-53200
Queen Alla Intl. Airport 06-53200

HOSPITALS

AMMAN:
Hussein Medical Centre 813813/322
Khaldi Maternity, J. Amn 642816
Al-Khaldi Maternity, J. Amn 642412
Jabal Amman Maternity 642362
Malhas, J. Amman 636140
Palestine, Shmeisani 6641714
Shmeisani Hospital 669131
University Hospital 845845
Al-Muham Hospital 6672719
The Islamic, Abdali 666127/57
Al-Ahli, Abdali 6641646
Italian, Al-Muham 777101/3
Al-Basir, J. Ashraf 775111/26
Army, Marfa 891611/5
Queen Alla Hospital 6724030
Amal Hospital 674155

ZARQA:
Zarqa Govt. Hospital (09)983323
Zarqa National Hospital (09)900560
Ibn Hisham Hospital (09)986732
Al Hisham Modern Hospital (09)909090

IRBID:
Princess Basma Hospital (02)275535
Greek Catholic Hospital (02)272755
Ibn Al Nafec Hospital (02)247100

AQABA:
Princess Haya Hospital (03)314111

FOR THE TRAVELLER

QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) Information department at the Queen Alia International Airport Tel. (06)53300-5, where it should always be verified.

09:30 Aqaba (RJ)
09:35 Doha, Abu Dhabi (RJ)
10:05 Doha, Bahrain (RJ)
10:45 Cairo (RJ)
17:00 New York, Amsterdam (RJ)
18:00 Madrid, Rome (RJ)
18:00 Paris, Geneva (RJ)
18:15 Frankfurt, Vienna (RJ)
19:20 London, Brussels (RJ)

Other Flights (Terminal 2)

09:30 Cairo (MS)
14:40 Moscow (SU)
18:20 Larnaca (CY)
19:35 Beirut (ME)

DEPARTURES

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)

06:15 Beirut (RJ)
07:00 Aqaba (RJ)
11:10 Tunis, Casablanca (RJ)
12:45 Cairo (RJ)
19:00 Larnaca (CY)
20:00 Jeddah (RJ)
20:00 Damascus (RJ)
20:10 Riyadh (RJ)
20:30 Abu Dhabi, Dubai (RJ)
22:00 Kuala Lumpur, Singapore (RJ)
22:00 Bangkok (RJ)
22:45 Sanaa (RJ)

Other Flights (Terminal 2)

18:25 Cairo (MS)
18:50 Beirut, Rome (AZ)
16:00 Moscow (SU)
19:10 Larnaca (CY)

MARKET PRICES

Upptower price in file per kg
Apple (red) 700/700
Apple (yellow) 500/500
Banana 500/450
Banana (Mukammal) 550/500
Beans 700/600
Cabbage 180/120
Carrot 200/150
Cauliflower 220/160
Cucumbers (large) 300/250
Cucumbers (small) 540/500
Eggplant 250/200
Garlic 650/550
Grapefruit 180/120
Lemon 180/120
Marrow (large) 300/250
Marrow (small) 500/450
Onion (dry) 200/150
Onion (green) 220/170
Oranges 420/250
Pepper (hot) 1000/800
Pepper (sweet) 300/250
Potato 480/420
Radish 300/250
Sage 600/500
Spinach 200/150
Tomato 280/220

Calls for farmers' insurance fund grow as damage from storms mount

AMMAN (J.T.) — The creation of an agricultural insurance fund will positively contribute towards settling many of farmers' problems which every year crop up as a result of frost or floods that damage vast areas of farmlands, particularly in Jordan Valley region, Agriculture Minister Fayez Khasawneh said Saturday.

Such a fund has become essential to promote the agricultural sector and the Ministry of Agriculture is now seriously seeking to create the fund in cooperation with the private sector, said the minister.

An agricultural insurance fund will be as important to farmers as insurance taken by people on cars, fires and other risks to public property and will compensate the farmers for losses, the minister said in a statement to the Jordan News Agency, Petra.

On Friday, the minister announced that the government was offering compensation to farmers whose lands were either inundated by flood water from the recent storms or hit by frost which damaged large areas of vegetables and fruit. The minister also announced that the government was offering easy term loans to the farmers to enable them to



Fayez Khasawneh

resume their activities.

The Jordan news agency pointed out that it was His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan who proposed the creation of this fund as far back as 1987 to offer compensation to farmers in times of natural disasters.

Since 1987, it said, Jordan's farmlands in the Jordan Valley region have repeatedly faced frost, drought or floods, further exacerbating the farmers' plight and causing one crisis after another in production operations.

Interviewed by Petra, the director general of the Jordan Farmers Federation (JFF), Mohammad Tawil, said that his federation has been demanding the creation of an agricultural insurance fund to provide compensation to farmers and called for joint participation in the fund by the government and the farmers themselves on an equitable basis.

Mr. Tawil referred to Prince Hassan's proposal in 1987 and said it was regrettable to see that the fund has not yet been created.

Mr. Tawil noted that farmers already pay 6 per cent of the total value of their output to the central marketplace in Amman, which absorbs the products, and the middlemen who market the crops. Mr. Tawil suggested that part of the 6 per cent amount should finance the insurance fund.

Referring to the programme of compensation suggested by the minister Friday, Mr. Tawil said that a joint federation-government committee is currently conducting a survey to assess the amount of losses.

Preliminary results of the survey have shown that the frost

which affected the farmlands between Jan. 23 and Jan 30 caused severe damage to 4,646 dunums of land planted with tomatoes, 9,090 dunums grown with marrows, 4,781 dunums of eggplants, 6,709 dunums of potatoes and 3,062 dunums of bananas. All the affected lands, he said, are located in the northern and central parts of the Jordan Valley.

Dr. Wali Abu Gharbieh, dean of the Faculty of Agriculture at the University of Jordan, echoed the call for the creation of an agriculture insurance fund to help farmers. Dr. Abu Gharbieh also supported the idea of farmers and the government sharing the costs of providing the compensation.

In Europe and the United States farmers are backed and compensated by the government. Since the agricultural sector is one of the most important sectors in Jordan, the government should similarly create a fund, said Dr. Abu Gharbieh.

But, Dr. Abu Gharbieh opposed the idea of having local insurance companies taking over the job of the projected fund, noting that such an idea was inapplicable in Jordan with poor farmers unable to pay insurance premiums on a regular basis.

Labour minister blasts Israeli practices against workers

AMMAN (J.T.) — A fact-finding mission from the International Labour Organisation (ILO) now on a visit to Jordan was Saturday briefed by Minister of Labour Abdul Karim Al Kabariti on the situation in the occupied Arab territories resulting from Israel's arbitrary treatment of Arab workers.

The Israeli authorities have recently escalated their "racist" and "brutal" practices against the Palestinian people, employing various means to evict Arabs from their homeland in order to settle Jewish immigrants in their place, said Mr. Kabariti at a meeting with the mission members.

In reviewing the general living conditions of the Palestinian people under occupation rule, the minister noted that unemployment was rising as people become poorer and their freedom is restricted.

The Israelis are continuing their defiance of the international community by stepping up their settlement programmes and by confiscating Arab-owned land on which to settle Jewish immigrants, the minister added.

According to Mr. Kabariti, the Israeli authorities last year seized 14,013 dunums of Arab-owned land to raise the total area of

Arab land confiscated since the 1967 occupation to 3,045,655 dunums in the West Bank alone. He said in the Gaza Strip the Israelis have so far confiscated 153,475 dunums of land to be used by Jewish immigrants.

The confiscated lands, the minister added, make up 55.4 per cent of the total area of the West Bank and 42.3 per cent of the total area of the Gaza Strip, respectively.

According to Mr. Kabariti the Israelis have set up 238 Jewish settlements in the occupied Arab lands and 35 settlements in the Gaza Strip since the occupation started in 1967. A total of 177,000 Jewish immigrants have settled in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip last year alone, raising to 260,000 the total number of settlers in the occupied territories, the minister noted.

He said that the Israeli authorities make way for such settlements through continued confiscation of Arab-owned land and the eviction of Palestinians by force. The minister urged the ILO to take active steps to implement its own resolutions of 1974 and 1980 which call on all countries to provide technical and economic assistance to the Palestinian people in general and

their workers in particular so that they can resist occupation.

He said that the mission's visit to Jordan comes at a time when the Palestinian intifada has entered its fifth year. The intifada is a popular uprising against repression, inhuman treatment and atrocities committed by the Israeli authorities, the minister said.

Mr. Kabariti voiced the Jordanian government's disappointment over the poor assistance so far offered to the Palestinian people in the occupied Arab territories in general and the Palestinian workers in particular. He said that the assistance was far below the level of suffering and the tragedies through which the Palestinian people have lived through under occupation.

Jordan calls on the ILO to seriously consider the workers' conditions in the occupied territories to working out a plan to provide material assistance to the Palestinians as provided for by previous ILO resolutions. He said. The minister said that the Israeli authorities are making a mockery of resolutions passed by the ILO and U.N. organisations and refuse to give up occupied territory in compliance with the

U.N. Security Council resolution. By maintaining its occupation of Arab land and escalating its atrocities against the Arab people, coupled with the construction of more settlements, Israel is endangering peace in the whole region, Mr. Kabariti added.

He said that the Ministry of Labour in Jordan is now providing the ILO mission with its 1991 report on continuing Israeli malpractices against the Palestinian workers, employers and trade unions hoping to help the organisation to expose Israeli illegal practices.

Mr. Kabariti expressed hope that the mission will recommend taking necessary measures for the implementation of an aid programme to the Palestinians under occupation. Previous ILO resolutions, the minister noted, have all condemned Israel's illegal practices, its building of settlements as contrary to international principles and obstructing a peace settlement.

Present at the meeting with the minister were representatives of business and workers who gave an outline of Israel's human rights violations against workers and employers in the occupied lands.



ONE CAUTIONS STEP AT A TIME — A rainfall of the past few days (photo by Yusef Al 'Allan)

Kingdom to get short breather from rains, snow

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The next two days could bring some relief for Jordanians as no rain or snow is forecast.

Department of Meteorology officials said Saturday that with the exit of the last cold front, Jordan was not expected to witness heavy rain or snow fall today and Monday, but the cold polar wind will continue.

Department acting Director Rafik Jamil Shaker said light showers and snow could continue over highlands of 800 metres but the temperatures will continue to be below normal, ranging from 1 degree Celsius at night to 4 degrees Celsius during the day.

According to the Department of Meteorology, the amounts of rain that fell since the beginning of the winter season far exceeded

the general annual rainfall average. A statistical bulletin said that the highest amount was 818 millimetres, recorded at the University of Jordan, while the least was at Al Jafer, where a mere nine millimetres fell in desert area.

As various rescue and repair teams were reported Saturday still struggling to clear roads of snow, remove fallen trees and repair other damages, press spoke of further landslides along the roads leading to the Jordan Valley resulting in the closure of roads and the collapse of a number of homes and the death of at least seven people.

Civil Defence Department (CDD) teams Friday said that they pulled out the bodies of two young men carried away by the Zarqa River. Search operations continued for 96 hours with the help of helicopters and divers, the CDD said. The CDD said its men

rescued several families whose homes were threatened by the rising water in the streams.

The torrential rain and the melting snow swelled the River Jordan and, according to some reports, the water level rose by at least two metres above the King Hussein Bridge, prompting the Public Security Department (PSD) to announce that the two bridges on the River Jordan will remain closed until the water has subsided. The PSD statement called on travellers across the bridges to refrain from making the trip to the West Bank until further notice.

The PSD Saturday reported that all roads in the Kingdom were open except for the Adasieh-Jordan Valley road and the Dhiban - Al Mujib - Al Karak roads closed due to landslides and Deir Allah - Abul Zighan road due to the high level of water and the collapse of a bridge.

School closure should not affect curriculum, official says

AMMAN (J.T.) — Keeping schools closed for one extra week at the end of the mid-year school holidays due to the severe weather conditions does not justify and changes in the Ministry of Education's general programmes concerning holidays at the end of schools terms, according to the director of general education at the Ministry of Education, Dr. Thaqan Obeidat.

The ministry does not feel that extending the mid-year holiday last month for one week will disrupt the present programmes, Dr. Obeidat said in a statement to the Jordan News Agency, Petra.

The ministry's various departments around the Kingdom had to order the schools closed and authorised directors of education to take charge of this matter in view of the weather conditions and the snowstorms. Such matters can be dealt with at school with the teachers re-arranging for their plans to be completed on time, Dr. Obeidat added.

He said that should any of these provincial departments feel that schools would not be able to complete the required plans, then they would have to reconsider the programme and increase the number of school periods or ask students to come to school Thursdays in order to compensate for the lost time and finish the required curriculum.

Dr. Obeidat noted that teachers normally take charge of such matters and arrange for the plans to be completed at their own discretion and in a manner which they find fit.

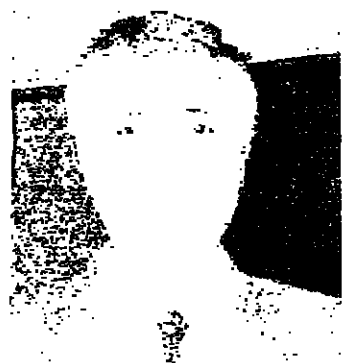
Normally, schools in Jordan are let out for mid-year, or winter holiday, which lasts about 21 days.

Officials call for greater effort to upgrade Arab sport activities

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of Youth Saleh Irsheidat returned to Amman Saturday after taking part in the 15th Arab Ministers of Youth and Sports Council meeting held in Rabat, Morocco.

The meetings passed a series of resolutions designed to contribute to improving the level of Arab sport activities and bolstering ties among officials responsible for sports and youth affairs in the Arab World, said Dr. Irsheidat in a statement upon return.

The council passed resolutions and recommendations including one that called on Arab countries to support Morocco's bid to host the 1996 World Cup and the Palestinian Olympic Committee to be accepted as a member of the International Olympic Committee. The minister said that the council has entrusted the Arab Sports Federation to conduct a study on school sports programmes among other decisions.



Saleh Irsheidat

The council called for a meeting by experts on sports and youth activities which will group Arab and African delegations to discuss executive programmes to be carried out by Arab and African groups, and approved the creation of an Arab Academy on Sports in Egypt.

According to the minister, the

council issued a statement voicing support for the Libyan people in the face of a hostile campaign being waged by foreign countries accusing it of being responsible for the Pan Am air crash of 1988.

Also Saturday, a delegation from the Ministry of Youth returned to Amman after taking part in a pan-Arab working camp held in Aswan, Upper Egypt. The 10-day camp included such activities as seminars, dialogues and recreational activities, according to the Ministry of Youth.

It said that Jordan attended the camp activities along with youth groups from Algeria, Mauritania, Tunisia, Libya, Egypt, Syria, Sudan, Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, Kuwait and Qatar. The camp activities, said the ministry statement also included tours of historic sites and cultural and scientific institutions in Egypt as well as meetings with notable personalities and officials.

New vehicle licensing department proposed in Amman

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Public Security Department (PSD) has allocated JD 200,000 to set up a second station for the licensing of vehicles to operate along with that located in the Marka District, according to Drivers Licensing Department Director Brig. Awni Mismar.

Brig. Mismar was quoted by Al Ra'i Arabic daily as saying that the PSD has already presented designs of the project to the greater Amman Mayor, seeking his help in acquiring a plot of land on which to set up the new station. The station would ease the pressure on Marka station, Brig. Mismar said.

Noting that the station will provide facilities for the licensing of vehicles and drivers, Brig. Mismar said that 68 per cent of the total number of vehicles in the Kingdom are registered at the Amman department.

The new station, he said, will be set up in western Amman while the Marka station in eastern Amman will continue to operate normally. Brig. Mismar reiterated an earlier PSD decision to offer Jordanian holders of Kuwaiti driving licenses new Jordanian licenses provided the Kuwaiti licenses had been valid until Aug. 2, 1990, the day Kuwait was invaded.

So far, he said, the department has issued nearly 7,000 Jordanian licenses to holders of Kuwaiti driving licenses. Others, he said, were issued by the Amman, Irbid and Zarqa departments.

Jordan outlines electricity research

AMMAN (Petra) — Jordan took part in a pan-Arab conference on the peaceful use of atomic energy held recently in Tripoli and submitted a working paper on Jordan's aspirations for generating electricity from nuclear energy.

The delegation to the Tripoli meeting was led by Ministry of Energy and Mineral Resources Secretary General Asem Ghosheh, who said that discussions covered, among other things, scientific research materials related to nuclear science, nuclear reactors and technology and its application to agriculture and food production, medicine, industry, the environment and the exploitation of natural resources.

The conference, which was held between Feb. 2 and Feb. 6, was a scientific demonstration grouping Arab scientists who opened discussions on research in the Arab World and underlined the need for inter-Arab cooperation in nuclear energy matters, with a view to promoting agriculture, health, industrial and other fields, Mr. Ghosheh added.

According to Mr. Ghosheh, Walid Jaoumi from the Jordan Electricity Authority (JEA) and Ali Murr from the Department of Nuclear Energy at the Ministry of Energy and Mineral Resources jointly presented the working paper.

HOME NEWS IN BRIEF

Princess to open exhibition

AMMAN (J.T.) — Her Royal Highness Princess Wijdan Ali will inaugurate Monday an art exhibition by Iraqi artist Sadik Kwaish at Baladna Art Gallery, Gardens Street. The exhibition runs through Feb. 26.

IDB opens new branch

AMMAN (Petra) — The Industrial Development Bank (IDB) has decided to open a branch at the Sahab Industrial Estate in Amman. The measure comes to provide needed financial services to industrialists at the estate and to help finance various industrial projects.

Joint committee to meet Feb. 16.

AMMAN (Petra) — The Jordanian-Tunisian Joint Committee will meet in Amman Feb. 16 under the chairmanship of ministers of industry, trade and economy in both countries. The committee will discuss scopes of bilateral cooperation in the fields of tourism, trade, energy and mineral resources and ways of enhancing it. The Tunisian delegation to the meeting, which will be headed by National Economy Minister Sadeq Rabeh, will arrive in Amman on Feb. 16.

Lower House to meet

AMMAN (Petra) — The Lower House of Parliament will meet today under the chairmanship of its Speaker Abdul Latif Arabiyat and in the presence of the Cabinet members. The meeting will include replies by the government to a query by Deputy Ahmad Oweidi Al Abbadi on technical assistance to the private sector, and another by Deputy Mansour Seifeddin Murad on the Jordanian Medical Council and medical specialisation certificates.



A GIFT OF LOVE — The staff of the Amman Philadelphia International Hotel Saturday distributed gifts and food parcels to girl students of the Zneitch Village some 70 kms south of Amman in the wake of the snowstorm. The hotel, which last year adopted the village, has been supplying gifts and food aid to the village children on a weekly basis.

WHAT'S GOING ON

★ Exhibition by Iraqi artist Sabina Al Allaq at the Royal Cultural Centre.

★ Exhibition of drawings by the French school's kindergarten children at the French Cultural Centre.

THEATRE

★ Arabic play entitled "Who's There?" at the Royal Cultural Centre — 8 p.m.

GBM and Lexmark executives at the signing of the distribution agreement: (right to left) Giovanni Ghisla, manager of Southern Europe Operations for Lexmark; Mustafa Raghibani, general

manager of GBM; Mike Barnes, vice-president of Lexmark Europe; Robert Kikano, division general manager, GBM Personal Systems.

GBM to distribute Lexmark products

AMMAN — Gulf Business Machines EC has been appointed sole regional representative for Lexmark International Inc., which is a worldwide information products company formed nine months ago for the development, manufacture, marketing, distribution and support of personal printers, typewriters and office supplies, and workstation keyboards, according to a company statement.

Lexmark was created through the transfer of majority ownership of IBM's typewriters, printers and keyboards businesses worldwide to the private investment company, Clayton & Dubilier, Inc. of the U.S. IBM, Lexmark management and a group of institutional investors hold the balance of the shares, the state-

ment said. Lexmark products will carry the IBM logo under licence and Lexmark will have access to IBM technology and patents. IBM and Lexmark will work together under a variety of manufacturing, marketing and distribution agreements, with IBM holding a 10 per cent share and a seat on the Lexmark board, the statement added.

The range of IBM printers which Lexmark will supply to GBM will be completely compatible with other professional computer systems. "Printers are an intensely competitive business and having these products will be a great benefit to GBM and our IBM authorised remarketers," says Robert Kikano, division general manager, GBM Personal Systems.

"We are now finalising our distribution plans throughout the region with our remarketers," says Mr. Kikano.

IBM authorised remarketers serviced by GBM are in Jordan, Syria, Lebanon, Kuwait, Bahrain, Qatar, Abu Dhabi, Dubai, Oman and Yemen. GBM was established two years ago as the regional representative of IBM outside Saudi Arabia, according to the statement.

"IBM and Lexmark are strategically aligned through their technology-sharing and marketing agreements," says Mike Barnes, vice-president of Lexmark Europe. "It is a sound business development for Lexmark and GBM to extend that alignment into distribution and support services for the Gulf region."

U.S., Israel fail to agree on loan guarantees

(Continued from page 1)

Complicating the issue are the unpredictable effect it may have on Arab-Israeli peace talks, which are due to resume in Washington later this month, and on the Israeli election scheduled for late June.

In testimony to Congress this week, Mr. Baker made it clear that Washington was no longer prepared to finance Israeli policies it regarded as contrary to its own interests.

Israeli fears U.S. linkage of the loan guarantees to Jewish settlement in the occupied land could set a dangerous precedent for future aid requests.

"We think his linkage is bad and dangerous. The question will always be: 'Where will it end?'" said Justice Minister Dan Meridor in a radio interview on Saturday.

Israeli doves meanwhile demanded their hardline government accept Washington's conditions — freeze new settlement building in exchange for the loan guarantees.

Israel's leading peace movement, reacting to the Friday meeting, said the government's settlement drive was damaging the country and demanded Mr.

Shamir make public U.S. conditions for obtaining the sorely-needed guarantees.

"The positions of the Shamir government as they are being presented by the Israeli ambassador in Washington are leading to a growing erosion of support for Israel in the U.S. administration, the Congress and in the American public," a Peace Now statement on Saturday said.

"It is already clear Israel will not get the full amount it requested," it said.

Mubarak criticises Israel

Meanwhile, Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak criticised Israel in remarks published on Friday, saying it was not serious in efforts to bring peace to the Middle East.

"No doubt, Israel made a mistake by advocating policies which suggest to the Arabs — especially the Palestinians — that it is not serious in its approach to peace," Mr. Mubarak said.

His remarks appeared in an early edition of Saturday's Al-Ahram newspaper.

He said Israel must stop building Jewish settlements in the occupied Arab lands and put an end to the expulsion of Palestinians under Israeli occupation.

By Clare Pedrick

LONDON — As his vessel plowed its well-worn route from Singapore to Hong Kong, the ship's captain awoke to find intruders by his bedside. One of them held a knife to his throat. Meanwhile, the rest of the gang went through the ship's safe and cargo before disappearing as silently as they had come, with a haul worth \$17,000.

The attack happened 225 kilometres out of Singapore on Nov. 27, 1991. Just two days later, a few hours south of Singapore, four men held a knife to the jugular vein of another ship's captain and tied him to his bed while they raided his cabin.

Twenty kilometres east of Bintan Island, five men armed with long "parang" knives and a revolver forced their way into the cabin of a third ship's captain. "They tied my hands together and I was threatened with death if I made a noise," the captain later told police. "My cabin was ransacked and all articles of value taken."

All three masters and their crews were victims of what mariners have always feared almost as much as the sea itself — pirates. These modern-day buccaners wear no eye-patches and prefer cash, video cassette recorders and computers to the traditional booty of golden doubloons. But their numbers are increasing sharply and with it the daring of their escapades, say investigators.

The coasts of Brazil and West Africa, especially Nigeria and Sierra Leone, are notorious for pirate attacks. But even more perilous, say experts, are the waters of Southeast Asia. Of these, nowhere is more heavily infested with pirates than the southern Malacca Straits, bordered by the territories of Malaysia, Indonesia and Singapore. By Nov. 1, 1991, the Singapore National Shipping Association, which represents 178 local and foreign shipowners and is the largest shipping group in Southeast Asia, had received 50 reports of piracy from its members. That figure compares with 33 during the whole of 1990 and just three cases reported in 1989.

At the International Maritime Bureau (IMB) in Barking outside London, investigators have compiled a confidential report on the piracy business, which they say

costs the shipping industry an estimated \$200 million a year in actual losses, and far more in terms of loss of confidence and psychological damage to the ships' crews and captains. "The shipping industry, the trade unions and the seafarers are getting very jittery about the problem of piracy, particularly in and around the Malacca Straits," said Eric Ellen, director of the IMB, an international organisation set up 10 years ago to combat all forms of crime on the high seas. "The attacks are getting much more frequent, and there is much more brutality."

According to Mr. Ellen, a former chief constable for the Port of London police, the number of reported piracy attacks represents a fraction of the real figure. "I'm sure there are a lot more than we know about," he said. "The shipowners often don't report attacks, perhaps because they don't want the ship to be delayed, or because only a small amount was taken, but the industry is doing itself a grave disservice in not reporting."

Under cover of darkness, the pirate gangs emerge from their hideouts on the dozens of small islands that dot the area. They use speedboats to reach their targets. In the time it takes to throw a grappling hook onto the ship's rails, the pirates are up and over, threatening the crew and captain with weapons, usually knives, but sometimes guns. At the lower end of the piracy scale, the attackers expect to get away with the contents of the ship's safe — normally cash kept for wages, port fees and other expenses — as well as the crew's personal valuables and as much of the cargo as they can fit into the launches in which they arrived. Altogether, the haul is unlikely to amount to more than a few thousands dollars' worth. "I call them maritime muggers," said Ken Luck, an assistant director at the IMB, and like Mr. Ellen, a former officer in the British police.

But a far bolder breed of pirate is giving greater cause for concern, say officials. These seafaring robbers are well-organised, well-trained and they set their sights high. "We know of at least six cases where they have taken the whole cargo, but there must be others," said Mr. Ellen. As the stakes increase, so too do the

Pirates make comeback

risks for the crew and captain.

Last year, a gang of 25 pirates wearing ski-masks and brandishing knives and machine guns murdered Indonesian Chief Officer Mohammad Dahalan, 33, on the Sprint Star, a 200-tonne coastal cargo vessel, which was sailing close to Tioman Island, off the coast of Malaysia, en route from Singapore to Phnom Penh. The gang tied up the captain and the rest of the crew in the storeroom and took over the controls, heading north for 14 hours before anchoring and unloading the entire cargo of cars, motorcycles, TV sets, video cassette recorders, cigarettes and clothing — worth a total of more than \$1 million — onto two other vessels that had drawn alongside.

The Sprint Star episode points to several worrying trends, say investigators at the IMB. Most alarmingly for the mariners themselves, it shows pirates are prepared to show considerable physical cruelty, when once they were content simply to threaten it. "We're going to see more deaths than we have been previously," said Mr. Ellen. "Crews are getting more nervous by the day. Some crews have been kept manacled for days at a time."

The Sprint Star attack also appears to confirm what investigators have long suspected — that some of the gangs are linked to organised crime syndicates, especially those operating out of Hong Kong, Taiwan, Singapore and Bangkok, whose other activities include drug trafficking, prostitution, gambling and the smuggling of illegal immigrants to the U.S. A study of the pirates' modus operandi reveals a distinct pattern, says Mr. Ellen. "They seem to work with great precision. They act quickly, in a disciplined way, and they seem to be very well organised."

The pirates responsible for the hijacking of the Sprint Star have not been caught, but investigators say they were almost certainly Thai. The crew later reported that the attackers spoke to each other in Thai, and the handcuffs taken from them were made in Thailand. According to Mr. Ellen, these may well be the same pirates who previously terrorised the Vietnamese boat people on the high seas, robbing and killing the men and raping the women. Most of the attacks of piracy against the boat people were be-

lieved to have been the work of Thais, said Mr. Ellen, and there have been no further incidents since April 1990. "We believe these attacks are no longer being carried out against the boat people, but against commercial cargoes," he said.

For sheer boldness, the case of the seajacking of a ship called Martha takes some beating. Sailing under a Cypriot flag, the vessel was boarded by four armed pirates during a voyage from Bangkok to Busan. The intruders overpowered the seven-man crew, handcuffed them and locked them below while they set to work on the ship itself, repainting the funnel, hoisting a different flag and changing the name, using stencils they had brought along to do the job. The pirates sailed the ship for two days before dropping anchor and offloading the cargo onto a barge with a forklift truck. After a further two days sailing northwards, the gang finally abandoned ship, leaving the crew with no radio and only part of the ship's charts, to find its way as best it could to Bangkok.

Changing the name and appearance of a vessel is easier than it sounds, say people in the shipping business. The pirates sail the vessel to a quiet cove, repaint and rename it, and supply it with new papers, good forgeries obtained from contacts in Singapore or Bangkok. "Even the skipper can find it hard to identify a skillfully overhauled ship," said a marine insurer in Kuala Lumpur, who spoke on condition of anonymity.

The theft of an entire ship — a trend that has emerged over the past two years — is not usually carried out for the cargo, but for the vessel itself, say investigators. Sometimes the stolen ship is sold almost immediately. The gang may first use it to carry out other acts of piracy before disposing of it. Or it may decide to use it as a vehicle for perpetrating any of a whole host of other frauds, which can range from insurance scams to the selling of non-existent cargoes, a favorite route on the maritime crime circuit. Whatever the case, the crew is a problem to get rid of. Most often, say IMB officials, they are set adrift in boats. But in at least one case, they were simply thrown overboard.

The Philippine coast has emerged as a danger spot for the hijacking of vessels. "Ships are

being stolen to order," said Mr. Ellen. A tough response by the Philippine government has had some success in combatting the problem. "They ordered a shoot-to-kill policy against pirates, but I fear it will only cause a lull in the operation, and it is likely to start up again," said Mr. Ellen.

In May last year, the Philippine government arrested seven members of an Asian syndicate operating out of Manila. They are believed to have been responsible for at least five hijackings, including that of a government-owned oil tanker.

But Mr. Ellen is critical of some other Southeast Asian governments — though he declines to name them — which, he says, have failed to tackle the problem.

"Some nations are bucking their responsibility," said Mr. Ellen. "There are many safe havens for these pirates." In February 1992 a meeting jointly called by the IMB and the Malaysian police force will be held in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia's capital. For the first time, it will bring together representatives from law enforcement in the region and from the shipping industry.

The latter has stepped up its calls for action. The Federation of ASEAN Shipowners Association in Kuala Lumpur has voiced fears that the pirate attacks could lead to a loss of confidence and hurt the economy in Southeast Asia. Among the organisation's recommendations is the mounting of joint maritime patrols in the worst affected areas. One of the main obstacles in catching pirates is that most of the attacks happen outside territorial waters, often in zones that are considered highly sensitive for political reasons. "Because of the political divisions in the area, it's very difficult for us to apprehend pirates," said Capt. Robert Garcia, a Philippine Coast Guard officer responsible for anti-piracy operations. "What's needed is really a concerted effort among the countries of the region, so we can pursue vessels from one country to the next."

Also helping the pirates is the fact that crews are getting smaller, thanks to computerisation on board, and that the distances at sea are vast. The pirates are usually well-informed about their targets and the cargo they are carrying, and they use radar to

check that they are not being followed. And, in spite of the dangers, most crews continue to be unarmed. Often, their only weapons are the ship's high-pressure hoses, which can be used to wash intruders off deck. One shipowner recently devised a more unusual deterrent. Said IMB assistant director Ken Luck: "I was at a conference in Tokyo and one shipowner said he had sewn fish-hooks into nets and festooned them around the vessel to stop them climbing up."

Mr. Luck himself has come up with another effective method — a panic button which sets off a system of hyperstrobe light and high decibel sirens to disorientate intruders. The drawback is the cost — several thousand dollars per vessel, and the fact that it relies on the pirates being spotted in time. The IMB does not recommend issuing guns to crew members. "We advocate a passive reaction, because if you attack someone whose original motivation is greed, you then give him the motivation of revenge, and at that point you may find yourself with a greater problem than you know how to handle," said Mr. Luck. Added Mr. Ellen: "How do you solve a problem like this? You can arm crews, but then they have to be trained and psychologically prepared to shoot and kill... you would really need an army to defend against pirate attacks in that region."

At present, the evidence suggests that the pirates are confident their attacks will go unpunished. Even when they are caught, their arrest may not signal the end of their criminal career: top Filipino pirate Emilio Chango was arrested, convicted and sentenced, but then allowed to go free by the courts.

"Our system of justice makes it very difficult to convict a terrorist or a pirate," admitted Philippine Coastguard officer Capt. Garcia. "These people are rich. They can afford to bribe people and they can hire the best lawyers." To prove his point, Capt. Garcia cites the case of the M.V. Eastern Galaxy. Pirates attacked the ship during a voyage back to March 1990, but the plan failed and the gang was arrested. Capt. Garcia: "We found the pirates on board, but the courts said they'd just boarded the vessel to get a lift. So they were released." — World News Link.

Akawi's funeral turns into national demonstration

(Continued from page 1)

checkup of Akawi and a police investigation after seeing the detainee's bruises.

Dr. Michael Baden, a pathologist called in by the family, said Friday that Akawi suffered from previously undiagnosed blockage of the arteries and that he died of a heart attack.

The heart attack, Dr. Baden said, was triggered by the "physical and emotional pressures" of detention. Dr. Baden, a former chief medical examiner of New York City, said Akawi sustained chest bruises during interrogation. Had Akawi not been arrested and detained, he would not have died, Dr. Baden concluded.

Akawi was rounded up Jan. 22 in a sweep of supporters of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, a radical PLO faction that has claimed responsibility for killing Jewish settlers in the occupied lands.

On Saturday, some 4,000 mourners braved heavy rain to follow Akawi's green coffin from Wadi Joz to Al Aqsa.

Faisal Hussein, a top advisor to the Palestinian peace negotiators, and his political rival, senior PFLP supporter Riyad Malki, marched in the front lines.

The PFLP staunchly opposes the peace talks, while Mr. Hussein has been a leading figure in getting the Palestinians to the negotiating table.

Scores of young men wearing red-and-white checkered scarves, a sign of support for the PFLP, shook their fists in the air and chanted "struggle, struggle."

When the coffin was carried into the Al Aqsa Mosque, mourners clapped wildly and then stood for a moment of silence as the Palestinian flag was raised. Outside, youths climbed up the mosque and planted a Palestinian flag on its leaden dome.

Akawi's death had raised new questions about the methods of the Shin Bet which interrogates Palestinians and runs a network of informers to keep tabs on the occupied lands.

Liberal Israeli legislators have asked for an independent investigation of Akawi's death, in addition to the police probe already under way.

The Israeli human rights group B'tselem has said five Palestinians have died during Shin Bet interrogations since the December 1987 start of the Palestinian uprising. Two others have committed suicide during breaks in interrogation.

FIS, Algerian security locked in street battles

(Continued from page 1)

from bullet wounds suffered at Sidi Bel Abbes, 500 kilometres west of Algiers according to hospital sources who spoke on condition of anonymity.

Officials in Sidi Bel Abbes said that more than 150 people were arrested Friday after violence broke out near the Abu Bakr Es Seddik mosque in the centre of town. Most of those arrested were between 15-25 years of age and were still being held on Saturday, the sources said, speaking on condition of anonymity.

The total number of arrests nationwide was not immediately available. Officials on Friday said at least 80 people had been arrested.

Witnesses and fundamentalist sources said Saturday that 80 people were arrested in Bordj El Kiffan, near the capital, and 55 in

Calef, 125 miles west of Algiers, and dozens of others in the eastern city of Annaba and in Saida and Tiemcen in the West.

The deadliest confrontations took place in Batna and Khenchela in the east, Medea and the capital of Algiers, which all reported fatalities.

Police and troops variously fired bullets, water cannon and tear gas to scatter crowds in Algiers, Oran, Constantine, Annaba, Batna, Bechar, Bordj Bou Arridj, Khenchela, Medea, Mostaganem, Saida, Setif, Sidi Bel Abbes, Tebessa and Tiemcen, witnesses and Algerian radio reported Friday.

Police Saturday tore down barricades of tires, cement blocks, rocks and other material constructed by protesters on national highway and city streets during the height of the violence.

By Nao Nakamishi

Reuters

KERPEN — Germany's Kerpen rubbish dump houses the largest garbage sorting plant in Europe. But it's so discreet you'd hardly know it was there.

High-tech machinery, including strainers and magnets, sifts through 100,000 tonnes of municipal rubbish every year and picks out about 60 per cent for recycling.

Paper, metal, wood, glass, organic material and some plastics are carried away to be reused, while the rest is buried behind a screen of trees.

"It has become a sort of place for a pilgrimage," Hans-Walter Erasmus, spokesman of Trineken Entsorgung GMBH, which runs the plant, told Reuters. "People

have come from all over the world to see our plant."

Interest and demand for such a plant has grown considerably in the last few years as the world seeks a more efficient way to reduce rubbish.

"We plan to build 20 to 25 plants in Germany over the next few years, in addition to five we have now," Mr. Erasmus said.

Last month Germany — saddled with ever-increasing waste — introduced regulations aimed at slashing the amount of packaging, which makes up about a third of the 40 million tonnes of garbage the country produces each year.

Companies must now take back packaging after using it to transport their products.

Japanese firms can no longer leave behind piles of cartons, papers and styrofoam after ex-

porting electronic goods, such as Hi-Fi sets, to Germany. They have to take the rubbish back to Japan or find someone to take care of it for a price.

The final stage of the regulations is due to come into effect in 1993 when shops will be forced to take back all packaging, including plastic bags, wrapping paper or even chocolate boxes, from consumers.

Frightened of the mess shoppers might leave behind, more than 400 firms, including Germany's largest — such as Bayer AG and Wella AG — have joined forces to set up a recycling system. They hope to collect 80 per cent of the country's packaging and sort out about 80 per cent for recycling.

If they succeed, the last stage

of the regulations will be postponed.

Since September, their joint venture — Duales System Deutschland GMBH (DSD) — has been providing consumers with yellow garbage bins for packaging which they empty every four weeks free of charge.

They have also put separate containers for brown, green and clear glass bottles, as well as paper packages, on each block.

"It will cost about two billion marks to collect the country's about 100 billion packages for recycling each year," said Petra Rob, spokeswoman for Duales System Deutschland in Bonn. "But the industry has no other choice."

The Federal Cartel Office approved the regulations on condition that any producer could

join the recycling scheme. However, the European Community (EC) has expressed concern.

The European Commission has received numerous complaints from the industry outside Germany alleging the scheme is an unjustified barrier to trade. There is also concern at the cartel implications of competitors working together in DSD.

The commission has already warned Bonn informally about its misgivings over the trade aspect and is likely to decide in the next few weeks whether to take legal action over the scheme.

Those taking part in the scheme mark their products with a "green dot" and are calling on consumers to buy goods stamped with it.

"We expect the regulation to

change the market eventually," said Herbert Gehring of the Environment Ministry. "Packages which can be recycled easily will get profit margins over the others." "We see the package rule as a pilot regulation. Similar rules will follow in other areas such as printed matters, cars and electronics," said Mr. Gehring.

Manufacturers should take responsibility for the waste management of their products. They should no longer be allowed to forget about garbage dumps where their products eventually land, he said.

Asked about the prospects of the packaging regulation, Mr. Gehring said he was confident the system would work. "For the first time, the industry has reacted very quickly and is working

JORDAN MARKET PLACE

THE PROFESSIONALS ALWAYS CHOOSE THE RELIABLE

PACKING, AIR FREIGHT FORWARDING, DOOR-TO-DOOR SERVICES AND DELIVERIES, CUSTOMS CLEARANCE, TICKETS AND RESERVATIONS.

AMIN KAWAR & SONS
TEL: 604676 604596
P.O. BOX 7806
AMMAN

CROWN INT'L EST.
Packing, shipping, forwarding, storage, clearing, door-to-door service
Air, Sea and Land

Agents all over the world
Tel: 664090
Fax: 690852
P.O. Box 926487 Amman

4 Rent & Sale
Many villas and apartments are available for rent and sale - furnished or unfurnished.
Also many lots of land are available for sale.
For further details, please call
Abdoun Real Estate
Tel. 810605, 810609
Fax: 810520

STUDIO HAIG
Professional Quality in 1 Hour Service
Develop your colour film at our shop and get:

- JUMBO photo size 30% larger
- Free Metal Frame 13 x 18 cm

Shmeisani - Opp. Grindlays Bank. Phone: 604042
Sweifeh tel: 823891

LOOKING FOR A PLACE TO RENT IN WEST AMMAN

CALL SOHA AT

Saudi Real Estate 687821/22

RENT Distinctive
Villas Apartments Flats IN ROYAL WEST AMMAN

real estate "R" US

Just call NIDAL 693037

MOVING?
Let Aramex Air Cargo take care of the works, Door to Door.
Call the friendly professionals on 660507 or 660508
ARAMEX AIR CARGO

RESTAURANT CHINA
The first & best Chinese Restaurant in Jordan
1st Circle, Jabal Amman, near Alhithayn Girls School
Tables away is available
Open daily 12:00-3:30 p.m.
7:00 - Midnight
Tel. 638968

PEKING RESTAURANT
AUTHENTIC CHINESE CUISINE
elegant colorful atmosphere
Moderate prices
open daily 11:00 a.m. to 11:00 p.m.

CHEN'S CHINESE RESTAURANT
Mecca Street, Yarmouk Engineers' Housing Estate, near Kilo Supermarket
Mongolian Barbeque for Lunch Friday only
Tel: 818214
Come and taste our specialties
Open daily 12:00 - 3:30 p.m.
6:30 - Midnight

MANDARIN RESTAURANT
Special Chinese Foods
Skilled Chinese Chefs
Open 11:30-3:30 & 6:30-11:30 daily
Take away is available
Wadi Saqra Road near Philadelphia Hotel
Tel. 681822, Amman
Once Tasted Always Loved

CHINA RESTAURANT
AQABA
CHINESE FOOD
Open daily 12:00 - 15:00 & 18:30 - 23:30
Tel: 03 - 314415

The First Class Hotel in Amman that has a Kitchenette in every room..!

DAROTEL
Amman - Tel 668193
P.O. Box 9403 - Fax 602434
Telex 23888 DAROTL JO
Ideal Residence For Expatriates and Businessmen

Swiss + German
LUNCH & DINNER DAILY FROM 6-8 p.m.

Tel. 638212
Call Mahmoud Saudi

SPORTS NEWS IN BRIEF

Frankfurt blows chance to top league

BONN (R) — Eintracht Frankfurt missed a chance to go clear at the top of the German first division when they were held to a goalless draw at lowly Bochum as the Bundesliga resumed after a winter break. Eintracht, playing without injured German international midfielders Uwe Bein and Andy Moeller, as well as out-of-form Ghanaian striker Anthony Yeboah, are now level on points with leaders Borussia Dortmund. Dortmund face bottom club Fortuna Dusseldorf Saturday. In other matches, Wattenscheid eased their relegation worries with a surprise 2-1 win at Karlsruhe while Dynamo Dresden, rocked by recent spying allegations, went down 2-1 at home to Nuremberg. Ironically, Dresden's scorer was Torsten Fritzsche, who sparked the furore at the former East German club by admitting he had spied on other players for the feared Communist Stasi state security police.

Henkel sets world high jump record

KARLSRUHE, Germany (AP) — Heike Henkel of Germany set a world record in the women's indoor high jump Saturday, besting by a centimetre the 2.06 metre mark set by Bulgarian Stefka Kostadinova two years ago. Henkel, 27, jumped 2.07 metres during the German Indoor Track Championships. Just minutes before, Henkel broke the German record in the event with a jump of 2.05. Kostadinova, the former world champion, set the old world mark on Feb. 20, 1988.

Nissan beats Al Nasr to win Asian Cup

TOKYO (R) — Japan's Nissan FC beat Al Nasr of Saudi Arabia 5-0 (halftime 2-0) in the second leg of the final to win the Asian Cup Winners' Cup. The first leg, in Riyadh on Jan. 30, ended in a 1-1 draw.

Sukova meets Gildemeister in Japan

AMAGASAKI, Japan (AP) — Second-seeded Helena Sukova of Czechoslovakia overcame Japan's Kimiko Date Saturday for a spot against Laura Gildemeister of Peru in the singles final of the Mizuno World Ladies Tennis Tournament. Sukova, firing eight service aces and hitting 73.4 per cent of her first serves, needed less than an hour to beat Date, Japan's top female player, 6-2, 6-2 on the artificial court at Amagasaki City Memorial Park Sogo Gym in western Japan. Third-seeded Gildemeister struggled nearly two hours and needed a second set tie-break before beating unseeded Karina Habsudova of Czechoslovakia 6-3, 6-7 (4-7), 6-1 in the other semifinal match. Top-seeded Manuela Maleeva-Fragniere of Switzerland pulled out of the tournament with a foot injury Thursday. The \$150,000 tournament offers a top prize of \$27,000 for the winner of Sunday's singles final.

Capriati wins 2 exhibition matches

COLUMBUS, Ohio (AP) — Jennifer Capriati won two matches on the first of two nights of exhibition play among four of the world's top women tennis players. The 15-year-old Capriati, the world's sixth-ranked player, defeated fourth-ranked Martina Navratilova and 10th-ranked Jana Novotna of Czechoslovakia by identical 6-4 scores. Capriati lost 7-5 to 15th-ranked Zina Garrison and Novotna defeated Navratilova 6-4. Garrison plays Navratilova and Novotna Saturday night to complete the round-robin phase of the event. Each player was allocated \$90,000 to exchange during the tournament. For the round-robin, each point is worth \$500, games are worth \$1,000 and sets \$5,000. The two players who have earned the most advance to the championship match and receive a \$20,000 bonus.

Ivanisevic thinks this may be his year

MILAN, Italy (AP) — Patrick McEnroe shook his head, rolled his eyes in disbelief and even climbed into the stands to receive serve. But he couldn't stop Goran Ivanisevic. The 1.93-metre Croatian recorded 17 aces and an equal number of service winners against McEnroe to power his way into the semifinals in the \$600,000 Milan Indoor Tennis Tournament. With his service so in groove, the 20-year-old believes this could be his year, which he would like to crown with a gold medal at the Barcelona Olympics playing for Croatia, the breakaway Yugoslav republic. "For a tennis player it's not so big like other sports," he said of an Olympic medal. "But it will be a good thing for Croatia." His 6-3, 6-4 victory over McEnroe was befitting the last seed left in a tournament whose other top entries were all eliminated by the end of the second round.

Courier beats Masur in San Francisco

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — Jim Courier needs one match victory to become the World's No. 1 tennis player after beating Wally Masur of Australia 4-6, 6-4, 6-3 Friday night in the quarterfinals of the Volvo San Francisco Tournament. Down a set and a break in the second set, Courier regrouped and won nine of the next 10 games, dropping only 16 points along the way, to take control of the match and earn a shot at No. 1. If Courier, ranked No. 2 in the world behind Stefan Edberg of Sweden, defeats Derrick Rostagno in a semifinal match he will become the first American in 6½ years to reach No. 1. John McEnroe was the last American ranked No. 1, on Aug. 26, 1985.

Borg ready to play again

BRADENTON, Florida (AP) — Bjorn Borg says he's ready to play competitive tennis again, beginning Feb. 28 with the inaugural ATP Senior Tour event, a \$100,000 tournament in Indian Wells, California. "I am looking forward to getting back on the circuit, both the regular tour and the 35s tour," said Borg, who turned 35 last summer.

GOREN BRIDGE

WITH OMAR SHARIF
AND TAMAR HIRSCH
1991 Tribune Media Services, Inc.

THE RABBI STRIKES AGAIN

Both vulnerable, East deals.

NORTH

♠ A J 10 9

♥ 10 5 3

♦ 10 5

♣ 7 5 4 2

EAST

♠ 8 2

♥ A K Q J 9 8 4

♦ 8 8 7 3

♣ A Q J

SOUTH

♠ 8 7 6 3

♥ A K J 9 4 2

♦ 4 6

The bidding:

East South West North

2 3 Pass Pass

4 4 Pass Pass

5 Pass Pass 5♣

Pass Pass Dbl Pass

Pass Pass

Opening lead: Six of

Most of our readers are familiar

with the kibitzer who became

known as The Rabbi. With the

advantage of hindsight, he intoned

pronouncements as if they were

Holy Writ. One, which has become

known as The Rabbi's Rule. Is: If

the king is singleton, play the ace.

We don't know whether South was

acquainted with The Rabbi, but the

play suggests it!

In our opinion, East's hand is

wonderfully short of the requirements

for a demand bid. Although there

are nine winners, too much of its

strength is concentrated in hearts,

which might not be worth so much

as a trick in defense. South bid like a

wealthy man, but used fine judgment

and card-reading in the play.

West led the six of hearts, East's

jack won and the ace of clubs was

cashed. West signalled with the ten

and East continued with the queen,

ruffed in the closed hand. The moment

of truth had arrived.

Declarer led the queen of spades

and, when West produced the deuce,

shut up with the ace, with most

gratifying results. When the king

came tumbling down, declarer drew

the remaining trumps, set up dia-

monds, with the help of a ruff and

claimed the rest of the tricks to

make the doubled contract.

While The Rabbi would have

called the play after the fact, declarer

had sound reason for playing East

for the king of spades. The way East

defended and West's ten of clubs at

trick two, suggested that West held

the king of clubs. With the king of

spades as well, would West have re-

mained quiet throughout the auction,

emerging only with a double at the

five-level? Most unlikely. So im-

probable, in fact, that declarer was

prepared to go against the probability

and hope that East held a single-

ton king of spades.

Winter Olympic Games begin

ALBERTVILLE, France (AP) — The 16th Winter Olympics opened Saturday with a dazzling celebration of a new world in which the only cold war left to fight was on the ice and snow of the French Alps.

Precision jets of the French Air Force left multicolour trails in the sky, fire-works exploded in the Alpine dusk and athletes from the 64 competing nations escorted into Albertville's temporary Olympic stadium by scantily clad women wearing plastic bubbles filled with fake snow flakes.

French President Francois Mitterrand, who declared the games opened, joined in repeated waves that swept through the stands. Other VIPs in the stand included U.S. Vice President Dan Quayle and members of European nobility.

The Olympic flag, lit in Greece, on Dec. 13 and flown to France, was carried into the stadium by Michel Platini, a soccer superstar and manager of the French national team. Nine-year-old Francois Cyril touched the flame to a fuse that sputtered across the stadium to set the cauldron ablaze.

To the applause and cheers of 30,000 spectators, athletes of the former Soviet Union marched into the erector-set of a stadium behind four separate banners.

Gone, along with the political cold war, was the red banner with

hammer and sickle of the once mighty Soviet Union, which dominated the Winter Games for nearly four decades.

Gone, too, was the flag of another former sports powerhouse of the lost Communist empire — East Germany, now part of a strong and united Germany. But, since old habits die hard, they were introduced in English as "Both Germans" team.

The 138 athletes from the new Confederation of Independent States — Russia, Ukraine, Belarus, Uzbekistan and Kazakhstan — are competing under the Olympic banner as the "united team." But each waved smaller flags of their own republic.

Teams of the breakaway Baltic republics of Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania proudly marched behind their own national flags for the first time in 56 years.

In place of the one Yugoslav flag displayed at Calgary, there were three at Albertville with the addition of those of newly independent Croatia and Slovenia.

Each of the teams was introduced in verse and the one chosen for a former Yugoslav state went: "With honours that mount, to the highest of stations, for the very first time, competing Croatsians."

The largest contingent was the 181-member team from the United States.

Albertville marks the first time in more than 60 years — since the 1928 games in St. Moritz — that the Olympics are not overshadowed by international tensions.

Four hours before the opening ceremony in Albertville, competition began at the Alpine resort of Menbel, where Canada's second-seeded ice hockey team survived a scare to defeat an aroused French team, seeded 11th in a 12-team tournament. The score was 3-2.

In the second hockey game of the day, Czechoslovakia overwhelmed Norway, 10-1.

Meanwhile, Marc Girardelli, one of skiing's great champions, is one course to clinch his first Olympic medal after outgunning his rivals in final practice for Sunday's downhill.

Girardelli, four times overall World Cup champion and reigning slalom world champion, swung down the 3,048-metre Belvedere Fiste in one minute 51.27 seconds on Saturday.

"At last I was able to make a good run. It's difficult to be perfect with all those turns but today I hit them pretty well," said Girardelli, Luxembourg's Austrian-born one-man team.

Norway's Jan Einar Thorsen was clocked even faster at 1:50.93. But his time did not count because he missed a gate in the middle of the course.

Nonetheless Thorsen will be a force to be reckoned with in what

promises to be an exciting race in the Winter Games' Blue Riband event.

Three Austrians were close to Girardelli's time on Saturday and World Champion Franz Heinzer, Swiss teammate Paul Accola and Germany's Markus Wasmeier looked in good form.

"There are so many people who could win," Girardelli said. "An Olympic gold medal or any medal is as important for me as anyone else."

Girardelli missed the 1984 Sarajevo Olympics because he had yet to establish his Luxembourg citizenship. In 1988 he was not in shape after a bad crash and elbow surgery and finished only ninth in the Calgary downhill.

He had another bad crash in Sestriere, Italy, in 1989 but is obviously secure on the turns of the technically exacting Belvedere track. "It's a safe course," he said.

Guenther Mader, a fine all-rounder like Girardelli, boosted his strong medal challenge with the next best time of 1:51.84. He was followed by fellow Austrians Patrick Ortlieb and Leonhard Stock, the 1980 Olympic downhill champion in Lake Placid.

World champion Heinzer, the race favourite with four wins in six downhill this season, and overall World Cup leader Accola, who eased off at the end after a very fast run, looked in good shape for Sunday's challenge.

Holmes beats Mercer in major boxing upset

ATLANTIC CITY, New Jersey (AP) — Larry Holmes, the 42-year-old former heavyweight champion, surprised the boxing world by upsetting highly-regarded Ray Mercer with a unanimous points win Friday in Atlantic City.

"I will win," said Holmes to a sceptical press corps as he entered the ring. And win he did, by surprising the four-to-one on favourite with stinging left jabs and right hands.

The fight, however, almost never got past the first round as Mercer caught Holmes in the corner and staggered him with a strong left hand.

"Man he scared me," said Holmes. "He caught me off balance. He hit me, he hurt me."

Yet Holmes refused to give in, fighting back with sneaky combinations, effective uppercuts,

and sometimes psychological warfare as he tried to upset his opponent by talking not only to him but to a television camera in one of the corners.

As the fight continued into the later rounds Holmes grew stronger, sometimes showing the fast feet and innovative moves that made him the undisputed champion for seven and a half years.

His faded jab, nicknamed the "hammer," set up right hands that continually rocked Mercer's head.

The crowd — initially supporting Mercer — began to yell their encouragement for the ageing underdog.

As the fight entered into the twelfth and final round, Mercer softly said to his opponent: "Good fight."

When the final bell rang the judges scored the bout 117 to 112,

117 to 111 and 115 to 113.

"I didn't cry in the ring because I didn't want you all to see a 42-year-old man cry," said a joyous Holmes. "But when I get back to my hotel room, man, I'm going to cry."

In another match, Jimmy Paul, a former lightweight champion who had been away from boxing for 46 months before returning last August, battered Todd Foster to his first defeat in 23 pro fights Friday night.

Foster was knocked down by a right hand in the fourth round, knocked down again by two left hooks in the sixth and cut badly over and under his right eye.

Just 27 seconds into the seventh, Paul, who could not see Foster's left hand, did what many ringsides thought the commission doctor, the referee and his own

corner should've done earlier — he stopped his own fight. Foster waved to referee Steve Smoger that he'd had enough.

"I couldn't see well enough," Foster said. "I didn't want to get injured."

The junior lightweight fight was scheduled for 10 rounds. It was a preliminary to the heavyweight bout between Holmes and Mercer at the Convention Centre.

The 139-pound (63-kilogramme) Paul is a former lightweight champion. He won his fifth straight fight and is 31-4 with 23 knockouts.

Paul stopped fighting after a third straight loss on Oct. 17, 1987. He did not return until last Aug. 24.

Foster, also 139 (63) is 22-1 with 19 knockouts. He turned pro after the 1988 Olympics.

German athlete wins injunction against suspension

KARLSRUHE, Germany (R) — German sprinter Grit Breuer is competing in this weekend's German Indoor Athletics Championships after winning an injunction against the decision allowing her to compete in the German championships. On Saturday she ran a year's best time of 23.03 in a 200 metres heat.

The DLV was due to announce later the results of the second sample submitted by the three women last month during a training camp in South Africa.

Professor Manfred Donike, one of the world's leading doping experts, has flown back to his laboratory in Cologne from Albertville, where he was attending the Winter Olympics in his

capacity as a member of the International Olympic Committee Medical Commission, to analyse the samples.

On Friday DLV sports manager Manfred Steinbach said of the suspensions: "This is not a pre-judgment but the suspicion is so great that it must be checked exactly."

"Until that is done, we think it is for the best that Katrin Krabbe be suspended."

Although the three tests were negative, the International Amateur Athletic Federation's (IAAF) rules state that anyone trying to evade a drug test or found to have doctored a urine

test is liable to the same suspension as an athlete found guilty of taking drugs.

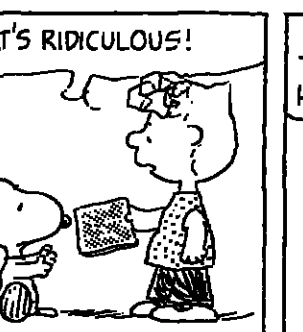
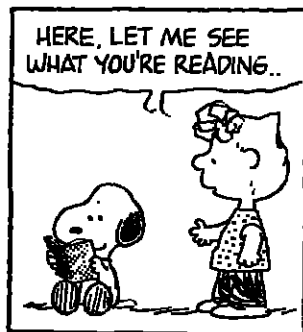
Athletes who test positive for performance-enhancing drugs can be automatically suspended for four years.

Krabbe, was named as the IAAF Woman Athlete for 1991 after winning the 100 and 200 metres in Tokyo.

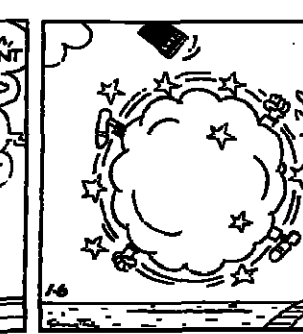
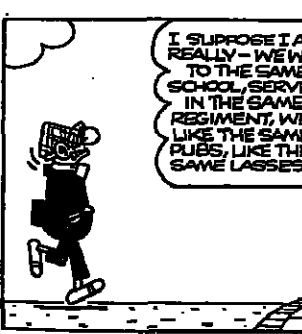
Her athletic prowess and blonde good looks have made her a highly marketable property and she has been viewed as symbol of the new united Germany.

Moeller won the 100 and 200 metres double four years earlier at the Rome World Championships.

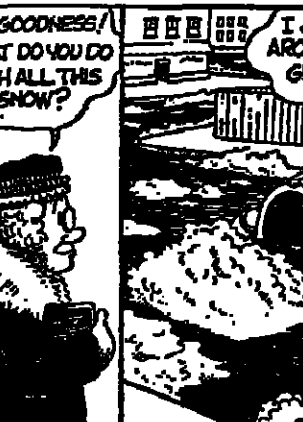
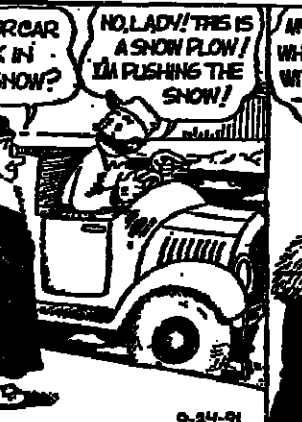
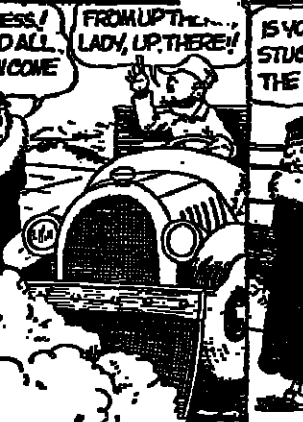
Peanuts



Andy Capp



Mutt'n'Jeff



HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR SUNDAY FEBRUARY 9, 1992

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES: Make it a point to avoid arguments and take no chance where your health or vocational activities are concerned. It will be hard to make headway in matters requiring discussions and correspondence.

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) The daytime is unusually good for reaching out for new thoughts, ventures and ways to expand but the evening brings the needs to relax after your activities.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) This is a very good daytime for romance and doing the things you most value with your close attachments, the evening brings delays in working out ideas.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) Bring into the open the plan of action you feel you and your associates can be most successful in pursuing and tonight avoid a depressing person.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) Whatever activities you get the greatest amount of satisfaction should be pursued today, then do what aid your physical strength in the evening.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) A wonderful day not only to get into making arrangements for good times but also for actually enjoying them to the fullest, then rest tonight.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) Your home can be the scene of

some thing interesting and constructive during the daytime but tonight don't let much to be done there depress you.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) Today go wherever you can gain the specific data that can aid your current goals, study intently all fine thoughts, tonight use care in motion on highways.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) You now can have a day when your abundance and how to realize a greater amount should be uppermost in your thoughts, tonight make a more sensible budget.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) Your own intimate longings have a good chance to be realized or at least much headway to gain them today, tonight consider length still to be covered.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) An excellent day to be with your most loved person and to have a happy day but tonight don't raise any old bones to chew over.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) Your gregarious qualities should be in full expression today so be with close companions and let them be more aware of your continuing friendship.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) Consider the various worldly interests you have and make an effort to make your public desires an active part of your daily life and activities.

THE BETTER HALF

By Harris



"You can wish for money, but only if I get a 40% kickback!"

JUMBLE

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

USCOT

TACCH

LEHTAH

DIPTUN

OPEC head urges sharp cut in oil production

LAGOS (R) — Nigerian Petroleum Minister Jibril Aminu Friday called on OPEC to cut oil output by at least 1.5 million barrels per day (b/d) but said he was not confident the group would take action to achieve its target price.

"I think we need to cut by 1.5 million b/d in order to firm up prices, arrest the slide and begin moving towards the \$21 a barrel minimum reference price," Mr. Aminu, the current OPEC president, told Reuters ahead of OPEC talks in Geneva.

Mr. Aminu said OPEC (the Organisation of Petroleum Ex-

porting Countries) was capable of achieving the target reference price but doubted whether members would take the necessary action.

"I have no doubt OPEC can get \$21 or even more because the organisation holds the balance. But I am not so confident ... whether we will be able to take the action that can lead to that," he said in an interview.

"Cutting back, obtaining full agreement and also observing oil cuts that have been agreed. These are the very vital issues," Mr. Aminu added.

He believed that OPEC would

have to cut its total oil production in the second quarter of this year to around 22.5 million b/d from more than 24 million b/d now to boost prices.

Brent crude oil, an international benchmark, was selling at around \$18.50 per barrel in London Friday.

Ten of OPEC's 13 members, including Nigeria, have already agreed to cuts totalling about 417,000 b/d following Mr. Aminu's call last month for action of support prices before the Feb. 12 talks in Geneva.

Mr. Aminu said he was not particularly optimistic about

higher demand in the second and third quarters of 1992, partly due to a mild northern hemisphere winter and economic recession.

"It may well be that demand in the second quarter and the third quarter of 1992 might be less than ... in the respective quarters of 1991. In other words, my figure of a 22.5 million b/d call on OPEC oil might be unduly optimistic. The call could be lower for the second and third quarters of 1992," Mr. Aminu said.

The Nigerian minister said he believed the Geneva meeting might need to modify its mid-1990 agreement on production

quotas, which was reached before limits on OPEC members' oil output were suspended to make up for shortfalls caused by the Gulf crisis.

"How this is going to happen, whether it is going to be some form of quotas with various factors related to the July 1990 quotas and the quotas before that, or whether it is going to be an across-the-board thing, I honestly do not know," he said.

"But I know one thing. We will do all we can to reach an agreement and an agreement can only be meaningful if it ... encompasses the provision of a substantial

cut," Mr. Aminu added.

OPEC Secretary-General Subroto said world oil demand was likely to fall by 1.8 million b/d in the second quarter of this year from 64.68 million in the first three months.

In Paris, the International Energy Agency said OPEC oil output fell to 24.3 million b/d in January from 24.4 million in December, adding that the recently agreed cuts had so far made no discernible impact on production.

British Petroleum Co. PLC Chairman Robert Horton said that OPEC needed to cut production by one million b/d to bring

oil prices up to the target of \$21 a barrel.

An international economist said in Bahrain that oil demand is likely to rise in the 1990s as some producers' reserves run out and the needs of developing countries increase.

Mina Toksor of the Royal Institute of International Affairs predicted possible price rises in the second half of the 1990s but said there was unlikely to be "an oil price shock" of the kind that sent prices rocketing in the 1970s.

"(For) a number of non-OPEC suppliers and some suppliers

within OPEC, their reserves will be declining in the 1990s," she told a two-day symposium on economic relations between the Arab World and the European Community (EC).

She said low prices in the 1980s, uncertainty over supplies from former Soviet Union republics and rapid growth in the needs of developing countries were likely to boost demand.

Oil supplies would start running down especially in non-OPEC producers such as China which would stop becoming oil exporter in the 1990s, she added.

BMW to slash 3,000 jobs by end of year to remain competitive

BONN (R) — Luxury carmaker BMW said Friday it would slash about 3,000 jobs by the end of 1992 to cut costs and remain competitive.

A spokeswoman for Bayerische Motoren Werke (BMW) A.G. said there would be no layoffs, the job cuts would be made through normal fluctuation in the workforce and early retirement.

Analysts had anticipated BMW's move, which came one day after Mercedes-Benz A.G. said it might also cut its workforce.

"It is an essential part of their strategy to regain the competitive edge against other carmakers," said Philip Ayton of Barclays de Zoete Wedd.

The BMW spokeswoman said about 1,000 jobs would be cut at corporate headquarters in

Munich and the remainder at plants throughout Germany. BMW had a worldwide workforce of 74,238 at the end of 1991.

The cuts are part of BMW's long-term plan to increase its productivity but the sombre outlook for the German market also played a role.

"It is part a measure to raise productivity, partially because competition is becoming sharper and also because the economy is becoming weaker," the spokeswoman said.

The moves by the two luxury carmakers are not comparable to the major job cuts announced Friday by Ford and Vauxhall, two of Britain's biggest carmakers.

Ford said it would axe 2,100 of its 40,000 workers this year, while Vauxhall, a unit of General Motors Co., plans to cut 300 of 750 jobs at its central spare parts

warehouse.

While Ford's redundancies reflect the grim state of the car market, cuts by BMW and possibly by Mercedes reflect the high costs of producing in Germany, analysts said.

"Given the wage costs and wage inflation in Germany, the moves are inevitable," Mr. Ayton said. "If they hadn't announced such measures I would have been worried."

Germany's carmakers are having to adapt to a domestic market that has been gradually falling since last summer. The boom which followed unification in 1990 helped them overcome weakness in worldwide sales.

The boom has run out of steam and domestic sales are expected to decline by up to 15 per cent in 1992 from the 1991 record of 3.43 million.

BMW still expects car production this year to surpass last year's 553,000 units, due to strong demand for its models, including the new 3-Series.

Mercedes said Thursday it had not taken any decision about layoffs but was preparing for a weaker market worldwide as German car sales fall, western European markets remain sluggish and the U.S. recession continues.

Mercedes expects its car deliveries in 1992 to be about the same as 1991's 565,000 but its current production plans allow for a reduction.

Germany's third luxury carmaker, Porsche A.G., has already announced layoffs of 550 non-production workers and short-time work for some 4,000 production workers.

Sri Lanka gets \$825m in aid from donors

PARIS (R) — Western donor countries Friday passed over the reservations of human rights groups and pledged \$825 million in aid to Sri Lanka.

At a conference organised by the World Bank, 21 donor countries and international agencies raised the issue of human rights but stopped short of linking the aid to an improvement in the record of the war-torn island.

The donors' decision was in contrast to their move in November to defer a decision on aid to Kenya for six months, pending progress on economic and social reform.

But the bank emphasised that an end to Sri Lanka's nine-year-old civil war was crucial for economic growth.

"We encourage the government to keep exploring ways to achieving peace ... the economic cost of not doing so is too high," the bank said.

Sri Lankan officials told a news conference that 90 per cent of the money pledged Friday would pay for specific projects, including hydroelectric power and port improvement schemes, while the rest was for balance of payments support.

They said \$235.5 million would be given as grants and the rest in the form of soft loans.

Finance Secretary Ramalingam Paskaralingam said the pledge of \$825 million was \$35 million dollars more than he had requested. He said published reports that the government had sought \$860 million were wrong.

Mr. Paskaralingam said Sri Lanka was on track to receive the second instalment of a \$460 million loan from the International Monetary Fund in April.

U.S. labour market tightens

WASHINGTON (R) — In a further sign of stagnation in the U.S. economy, 91,000 jobs were lost in January and the unemployment rate held at a six-year high of 7.1 per cent, the government said Friday.

Not only were there fewer jobs, but the pay for those that remained fell and most people who managed to find work last month had to settle for part-time jobs, the Labour Department said in the government's first report on the economy in 1992.

Private economists said the report showed no sign of a let-up in the recession and they hoped it would prompt the U.S. central bank, the Federal Reserve (Fed) Board, to lower interest rates once again in an effort to stimulate borrowing, spending and investment.

But after the Fed took no early action, blue chip stocks reversed direction, taking their cue from the bond market, which collapsed.

The central bank has already cut interest rates several times, including a Dec. 20 cut in its benchmark discount rate to 3.5 per cent from 4.5 per cent.

Earlier this week, Fed Chairman Alan Greenspan did not rule out further interest rate cuts but said the reductions already in place would be enough to get the economy moving again in a few more months.

Chief White House economist Michael Boskin said the 7.1 per cent jobless rate, unchanged from December and the highest since January 1986, might get worse before it got better.

"The unemployment rate may

rise slightly early in the year, but if the president's policies are enacted should start to decline thereafter," he told the House Budget Committee.

President George Bush has given Congress until March 20 to enact his proposed economic programme that includes a range of tax cuts for families, investors, first-time homebuyers and businesses to help spur the economy out of the recession.

Unemployment is increasingly a liability for Mr. Bush, who faces criticism of his economic policies from both his Republican challenger for the presidential nomination and from the Democratic contenders who hope to face him in November.

About 1.09 million people have given up looking for work and are no longer counted in the labour force.

More than half of N. Korean factories said to be closed

SEOUL, South Korea (AP) — A serious shortage of energy and raw materials and shrinking overseas demand keeps more than half of North Korean factories closed, a South Korean business leader has said.

Kim Woo-Chong, chairman of the Daewoo business group, said a fast-changing international economic environment is multiplying the difficulties facing the communist north, leading it to take a more progressive economic policy.

Mr. Kim made the remarks while briefing foreign reporters about his recent 11-day visit to the north. He was the first South Korean businessman to visit the north on an official government invitation.

During the visit, Mr. Kim agreed with the north to set up

eight joint ventures between the rival Koreas to make textiles and other consumer goods. The north also asked South Korea to develop its mineral resources and jointly advance to overseas construction markets.

A political thaw on the Korean peninsula has brightened the prospects of economic cooperation between the two Koreas. Last year's inter-Korean trade volume reached \$200 million, about eight times the previous year's.

But Mr. Kim said North Korea was short of crude oil, grains and raw materials because the Soviet Union and Pyongyang's other former allies in East Europe had switched trade with the north from an open account system to a cash settlement one.

Those countries, which had previously supplied crude oil and

other raw materials in exchange for the north's industrial goods, now demand hard currencies, Mr. Kim said.

"The operations (of North Korean factories) were less than 50 per cent of their capacities," Mr. Kim said. He cited shortages of raw materials and energy as the prime reason.

"The north's economy could not survive without earning foreign currencies," Mr. Kim warned, adding that Pyongyang should change its focus from heavy industry to export-oriented light industry.

Mr. Kim said the north also suffers from the lack of merchandising capability in overseas markets because of the closed and inflexible nature of the economy.

The north is unable to make products with a great diversity needed to survive in today's international markets, he said.

Kuwaitis to receive pay raise in March

KUWAIT (R) — Kuwait's partially elected consultative body, the National Council, has approved government plans to raise the salaries of all Kuwaiti employees from March, the Kuwaiti News Agency (KUNA) has reported.

KUNA gave no details of the long-anticipated pay hike but Finance Minister Nasser Abdullah Al Rodhan said last month that government salaries for Kuwaiti nationals would go up 25 per cent at a cost to the treasury of an extra 300 million dinars (\$1 billion) a year.

Most Kuwaiti employees work for the government. Since U.S.-led forces drove Iraq out of Kuwait last February, Kuwait has spent about \$2 billion in back pay for government employees and compensation for people who stayed in the emirate during the seven months of occupation.

It has also written off government loans worth \$5.84 billion. The emirate is considering plans to waive electricity and water bills worth \$465 million for Kuwaitis dating back to the occupation.

Iraq readies major refinery for operations

BAGHDAD (R) — Iraq's second largest refinery, Al Dora, is now fully operational after the completion of repairs to Gulf war damages, the government daily Al Jumhuriyah said Saturday.

The refinery has annual production capacity of five million tonnes of crude and 150,000 tonnes of lubricants. "Iraqi technicians have ensured absolute production stability at all production lines after overcoming technical problems that appeared following the completion of repairs," it said.

The refinery was badly damaged by the U.S.-led air and missile attacks at the start of the Gulf war but was partially repaired three months later.

The official said refining units sustained 10 to 100 per cent damage, the pipeline network 80 per cent, lubricant units 50 per cent, and 43 storage tanks were burned.

UAE reports big drop in oil income

ABU DHABI (R) — Oil revenues of the United Arab Emirates (UAE) dropped by 11.3 per cent last year, leading to decline in gross domestic product (GDP), according to Planning Minister Sheikh Humaid Bin Ahmad Al Mualla.

He unveiled provisional economic indicators for 1991 in an interview with the semi-official daily Al Itihad published Saturday. They showed oil income down to 51.1 billion dirhams (\$13.9 billion) from 57.6 billion dirhams (\$15.7 billion) in 1990.

Sheikh Humaid said the overall effect was a two per cent fall in the UAE's GDP to 123.2 billion dirhams (\$33.6 billion).

Progress in diversifying the economy away from oil was reflected in a 5.9 per cent growth in non-oil GDP.

Following trends in recent years, non-oil sectors had contributed more to GDP than oil, and reached 72.1 billion dirhams (\$19.6 billion) in 1991.

But Sheikh Humaid said: "The heavy dependence on oil ... which provides almost 90 per cent of annual state revenues weakened the drive of other economic sectors to launch further expansion plans."

"Despite the dramatic events in the Gulf region in 1990 and the first quarter of 1991, with their momentous impact on the UAE economy, it was able to achieve good growth in 1991 in most sectors except oil," he said.

The trade surplus, which continues to reflect oil's pre-eminence, fell 18.4 per cent to 29.6 billion dirhams (\$8.1 billion).

Imports rose by 6.1 per cent to 45.1 billion dirhams (\$12.3 billion) in 1991, reflecting the recovery from the previous year's slowdown as a result of the Gulf war.

Reexports, especially important in the UAE emirate of Dubai, the main trading centre in the lower Gulf, rose in 1991 by 11.6 per cent to 12 billion dirhams (\$3.5 billion).

HOTEL AQUAMARINA III

Three nights/four days per person JD 29.000 in double room occupancy including breakfast and lunch.

The above rates are subject to 10% govt. tax and 10% service charge.

For reservation please call: 03-31-6255

HOTEL AQUAMARINA II

Three nights/four days per person JD 29.00 in double room occupancy including breakfast at Aqua II and lunch at Aqua I.

The above rates are subject to 10% govt. tax and 10% service charge.

For reservation please call 315165 - 316250

AQUAMARINA HOTEL — CLUB I

Three nights/four days per person JD 48.00 in double room occupancy including breakfast and dinner buffet barbeque in Blue Lagoon Restaurant with MAHA, the Arabic Singer (for families only).

The above rates are subject to 10% govt. tax and 10% service charge.

For reservation please call: 03-31-6250

Financial Markets

Jordan Times
in co-operation with
Cairo Amman Bank

U.S. Dollar in International Markets

Currency	New York Close Date: 6.2.1992	Tel Aviv Close Date: 7.2.1992
Sterling Pound ^a	1.6207	1.5385
Deutsche Mark	1.5767	1.5580
Swiss Franc	1.4065	1.3895
French Franc	5.3740	5.3120
Japanese Yen	125.73	125.33
European Currency Unit	1.2920 ^{aa}	1.3110

^a 1SD Per STD

^{aa} European Opening at 8:00 a.m. GMT

Eurocurrency Interest Rates

Date: 7.2.1992

Currency	1 MTH	3 MTHS	6 MTHS	12 MTHS
U.S. Dollar	3.87	3.93	3.93	4.31
Sterling Pound	10.50	10.33	10.31	10.18
Deutsche Mark	9.43	9.43	9.37	9.25
Swiss Franc	7.28	7.28	7.19	7.13
French Franc	10.00	9.93	9.87	9.82
Japanese Yen	5.43	5.21	4.93	4.81
European Currency Unit	10.37	10.31	10.25	10.00

Interbank bid rates for amounts exceeding 1 % Dollars 1,000,000 or equivalent.

Precious Metals

Date: 7.2.1992

Metal	USD/Oz	JD/Gm ^a	Metal	USD/Oz	JD/Gm
Gold	355.60	6.75	Silver	4.19	.090

^a 21 Karat

Central Bank of Jordan Exchange Rate Bulletin

Date: 7.2.1992

Currency	Bid	Offer
U.S. Dollar	0.6730	0.6750
Sterling Pound	1.2364	1.2428
Deutsche Mark	0.4316	0.4334
Swiss Franc	0.4640	0.4664
French Franc	0.1267	0.1273
Japanese Yen ^a	0.5368	0.5395
Dutch Guilder	0.3834	0.3853
Swedish Krona	0.1183	0.1189
Italian Lira ^a	0.0573	0.0576
Belgian Franc	0.02095	0.02105

Per 100

Other Currencies

Date: 7.2.1992

Currency	Bid	Offer
Bahraini Dinar	1.7560	1.7650
Lebanese Lira ^a	0.0764	0.0772
Saudi Riyal	0.1792	0.1801
Kuwaiti Dinar	-	-
Qatari Riyal	0.1823	0.1832
Egyptian Pound	0.2020	0.2180
Omani Riyal	1.7220	1.7310
UAE Dirham	0.1823	0.1832
Greek Drachma	0.3630	0.3730
Cypriot Pound	1.4840	1.5100

Per 100

CAS Indices for Amman Financial Market

Index	29.1.1992	Close	5.2.1992	Close
All-Share	133.63		135.42	
Banking Sector	109.75		109.74	
Insurance Sector	131.70		131.35	
Industry Sector	168.42		173.54	
Services Sector	152.61		152.31	

December 31, 1990 = 100

Cinema Tel: 677420

CONCORD

Laila Alawi/Hisham Salim

in

Ya Mahallabia Ya

Shows: 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30 p.m.

Cinema Tel: 675571

Nabil Al Mashini Theatre

Every day starting from Thursday Feb. 13. You meet the stars of Haret Abu Awwad Family in their play.

Zaman Al Shaklabah (Somersault Time)

at 8 p.m.

Tickets office open daily

Cinema Tel: 634144

PHILADELPHIA

Patrick Swayze

in

ROADHOUSE

Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30 P.M.

Special shows for children on Thursdays and Fridays at 11:30 a.m.

The Fox And The Hound

Cinema Tel: 625155

RAINBOW

Noor Al Sharif

in

Naji Al Ali

Arabic

Shows: 3:30, 6:30, 8:30, 10:30 p.m.

VILLA FOR RENT

4 bedrooms, 5 bathrooms, kitchen, kitchenette, 2 salons, dining room, sitting room with a fireplace, special room and bathroom for the maid, central aerial, an electric garage door with a remote control.

If interested, please call 841146, from 9 a.m. till 2 p.m.

Russian vice president calls for economic state of emergency

MOSCOW (Agencies) — Russian Vice President Alexander Rutskoi threw down a political gauntlet before Boris Yeltsin Saturday and called for a one-year state of economic emergency to avoid the country's ruin.

Mr. Rutskoi did not criticise Mr. Yeltsin by name, but he told nearly 3,000 Russian nationalists that government policies are leading to the "economic genocide of the Russian people."

"There is a solution — to declare an economic emergency," said Mr. Rutskoi, an Afghan war hero who was chosen by Mr. Yeltsin last year as a vice-presidential running mate to garner support among the military and ex-Communists.

In the months since the failed hardline Communist coup last August, Mr. Rutskoi has emerged as the champion of Mr. Yeltsin's opponents, criticising the decision to lift price controls last month and fanning discontent over the growing shortages of consumer goods.

People across the political spectrum have criticised Mr.

Yeltsin for introducing reforms piecemeal and for allowing prices on consumer goods to rise by an average of 350 per cent without turning state-controlled farms and businesses over to private owners.

Mr. Rutskoi, wearing civilian clothes, addressed the Congress of Civic and Patriotic Forces, a loose movement of orthodox religious believers, nationalists, anti-Semites and Russian imperialists.

The congress's goal was to mend a unified opposition out of the gaggle of tiny hardline groups that formed after the Communist Party was disbanded following the August coup attempt.

More anti-Yeltsin protests were planned for Sunday at a rally organised by members of the former Communist Party. Mr. Yeltsin banned the party after the coup attempt.

Dozens of men in the standing-room only audience at the Rossiya Cinema House wore military uniforms from the pre-Soviet period including Czarist guards and Cossack cavalry units, complete with swords and tall for

caps. Above the dais hung a black, yellow and white Czarist banner.

In the lobby outside the downtown theatre, activists sold political and religious literature.

Mr. Rutskoi, in his speech and in a two-page article published today in the former Communist Party daily Pravda, did not specify what steps he would take to improve the economy.

"An economic state of emergency should be introduced, if only for one year, and a comprehensive plan for transformations should be worked out to prevent the country from being ruined completely," Mr. Rutskoi said in the Pravda article.

Mr. Rutskoi blamed the Russian economy's tattered state on "the overall power crisis — or rather lack of power — and anarchy" from too much freedom.

CIS leaders meet
Meanwhile leaders of the new Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) met Saturday to tackle their economic problems, but Ukraine cast a shadow on the

proceedings by saying it could not take any important decisions.

The Moscow meeting, bringing together prime ministers of the new independent states, was due to discuss easing trade barriers among the 11 members, funding for the troubled armed forces and coordinating Western export credits.

But leaders from five republics — Ukraine, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Uzbekistan and Turkmenistan — were absent from the meeting at the plush Oktyabr Hotel.

Ukrainian Prime Minister Vitold Fokin remained in Kiev to fight off a parliamentary motion of no confidence in his government. Delegation members said they could not take any decisions on the more important items on the agenda.

"The most important divergences this morning were that some delegations tried to put some republics, including Ukraine, on an unequal footing," Vadim Dolganov, press attaché of the Ukrainian mission in Moscow, told reporters.

Ghali wants Germany in U.N. council

HAMBURG (R) — U.N. Secretary-General Boutros Ghali wants to expand the world body's Security Council to take in five more permanent members, including Germany, Der Spiegel magazine reported Saturday.

It said Dr. Ghali, who took over at the beginning of the year as the U.N. chief, wanted to expand from five to 10 the number of permanent members of the Security Council.

Besides Germany, he wanted India, Brazil, Japan and Nigeria to join the Council, the news magazine said in its latest edition. Der Spiegel said Hungary and most of the nations of the Third World were in favour of the powerful united Germany becoming a permanent member of the Council.

The Council has five permanent members — the United States, France, China, Britain and Russia, which took over from the former Soviet Union. Earlier this week, German Chancellor Helmut Kohl told the Wall Street Journal Europe he was not interested in seeking a permanent German seat on the Security Council.

"That is not an issue," he said. But he added that Germany's new role should include sending troops on U.N. peace missions. "We have the obligation to assume more responsibility on an international scale," Mr. Kohl was saying by the newspaper.

Germany's constitution prevents Bonn from sending troops outside the NATO area.

Dr. Ghali announced the first stage of a major U.N. staff shake-up Friday designed to streamline the organisation and make it more efficient.

It will involve a net reduction



Dr. Boutros Ghali

so far of 14 high-level posts and the elimination of almost as many separate departments and offices whose functions will be absorbed or covered by other administrative arrangements.

The U.N. Secretariat, sometimes criticised as unwieldy and bureaucratic, has about 7,000 employees in New York with a similar number divided between offices in Geneva and Vienna. The last major staff reshuffle was carried out by Dr. Ghali's predecessor, Javier Perez de Cuellar, in November 1986.

A U.N. official said that became known as the "Halloween Day Massacre," prompting some reporters to dub the current shake-up, prematurely, as the "Valentine's Day Massacre." The real massacre was carried out by Chicago gangsters on seven rivals on St. Valentine's Day, Feb. 14, 1929.

A former Soviet First Deputy Foreign Minister, Vladimir Petrovsky, now a Russian ambassador at large, is being brought in as an undersecretary-general to head one of two newly created

departments for political affairs. Mr. Petrovsky is a familiar figure at the United Nations, where he was a secretariat official in the 1960s and later headed the Soviet Foreign Ministry's International Organisation Department.

The other U.N. Political Affairs Department will be headed by Undersecretary-General James Jonah of Sierra Leone, whose present department is one of those being discontinued.

Working under him will be Giandomenico Pico of Italy, who won prominence last year for helping secure the release of hostages held in Lebanon and was recently promoted to assistant secretary-general.

Dr. Ghali's chief of staff will be Assistant Secretary-General Jean-Claude Aime, a Haitian who served as a U.N. Middle East troubleshooter. The senior political adviser will be Assistant Secretary-General Alvaro De Soto, a Peruvian who was chief U.N. negotiator at talks that halted the civil war in El Salvador.

The new head of the Department of Public Information is Undersecretary-General Eugene Wyzner, Poland's U.N. representative before joining the secretariat in 1982. He has headed the U.N. Department of Conference Services, now being folded into the Department of Administration and Management.

The Office for Special Political Affairs will be renamed the Office for Peacekeeping Operations under its present chief, Undersecretary-General Marrack Goulding of Britain, and reinforced with the addition of Assistant Secretary-General Kofi Annan of Ghana.

Bush calls for good living to cut health costs

WASHINGTON (AP) — President George Bush is throwing "personal responsibility" into the health care debate, saying Americans could save billions of dollars just by exercising more, drinking and smoking less, eating better and practicing safe sex.

Above all, take your children to get shots, Mr. Bush advised Friday in a second day of promoting his suggested alternatives to Democratic calls for a bigger government role in health care. "Maybe I am a little old-fashioned, but I believe personal responsibility has a lot to do with making America a better country," Mr. Bush told a San Diego Rotary Club audience Friday night.

"Good health equals a change in the health care system plus a change in the way we act," he said. "If you exercise and eat right and don't smoke (or) abuse drugs and drink less and avoid risky sexual behaviour, you'll live longer, and America will live better."

Mr. Bush visited an inner-city health care clinic for the poor Friday and watched a little boy get shots against diphtheria and tetanus.

Afterwards, he stressed the importance of immunising young children against disease, saying that "every one dollar spent for immunisation now for measles, mumps and rubella saves an estimated \$14 later on."

Mr. Bush's comments were in contrast to his advisers' actions last year, when they rejected pleas from the public health service to boost spending on childhood immunisations by \$90 million, particularly to combat measles epidemics in inner cities. Congress tried to add the money but retreated when the administration said Mr. Bush would veto an emergency spending bill if it did.

Virtually all of the president's health care proposals emphasise maximising individual choice and keeping the government's role minimal.

In contrast to Democratic plans that would require employers to help buy medical insurance for their workers or pay into a government fund that would do it, Mr. Bush wants to provide health insurance vouchers or tax credits to low and middle-income families.

Above all, Mr. Bush said, it would be better for people to take care of themselves so they need less medical attention.

Health industry experts say poor and elderly Americans may have more trouble obtaining medical care because of limits proposed by President Bush.

To make up for the estimated \$100 billion cost, Mr. Bush would hold down increases in payments for Medicare, for people over 65, and Medicaid for the poor.

"More and more doctors are not going to see Medicaid patients," Dr. Sidney Wolfe, the Health Research Group of Public Citizen, an organisation founded by consumer advocate Ralph Nader, said Friday.

The American Medical Association echoed that forecast. "You can only ratchet down just so far until the ability of the provider group to absorb those costs is just intolerable," said Dr. James S. Todd, its executive vice president.

U.S., Germany to explore ways to attract Soviet nuclear scientists

WASHINGTON (AP) — Germany and the United States are looking for ways to encourage Soviet nuclear scientists to come to the West and keep radical nations from attracting their expertise, U.S. officials say.

Secretary of State James Baker and his German counterpart, Foreign Minister Hans Dietrich Genscher, are to discuss the issue when they meet in Germany next week, the officials said Friday.

Among proposals under consideration are finding ways to place Soviet scientists at American universities and private research facilities.

"The allies are looking at ways to attract their scientists," said a U.S. official who insisted on anonymity.

Japanese leaders also have expressed interest in joining the United States in trying to prevent countries like Libya and Iran from gaining Soviet nuclear expertise, officials said.

Word of the Baker-Genscher meeting came after the White House announced that President George Bush has assigned a weapons expert to work with the

former Soviet republics to keep their scientists and their expertise out of unfriendly hands.

Robert L. Gallucci also will help in converting the old Soviet state-run defence establishment to peaceful commercial enterprises, and assist in the coordination of humanitarian and educational needs.

Mr. Baker will see Genscher in Frankfurt Monday before witnessing the dispatch of U.S. cargo planes carrying emergency food and medical relief to the former Soviet republics.

Mr. Baker began his discussions with Genscher in Prague, Czechoslovakia, last week while they were attending a European security conference foreign ministers' meeting.

The United States wants to set up a Western-financed clearing house to help find jobs for Soviet nuclear scientists and so prevent them from selling their expertise to hostile countries, the New York Times said.

The programme would pair the talents of nuclear scientists from the former Soviet Union with the needs of foreign investors, uni-

versities, research organisations and governments, the Times said Saturday.

The plan would focus on finding jobs for the 2,000 to 3,000 scientists who have the advanced skills needed to make and modernise nuclear weapons.

The Times also reported that leaders of the U.S. anti-missile defence research programme, popularly known as Star Wars, were seeking to buy technology from the former Soviet Union.

Officials of the Strategic Defence Initiative Organisation (SDIO) are particularly interested in buying prototypes of a nuclear power system that would orbit in space, the Times reported.

Aviation Week magazine said Friday that SDIO was also planning to recruit more than 1,000 former Soviet scientists and engineers.

It said SDIO had concluded a survey of available Soviet anti-ballistic missile technology last year and identified U.S. state laboratories and private companies to work on each of the acquired technologies.

Miyazawa faces crucial electoral test

TOKYO (AP) — Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa's 3-month-old administration faces an important test Sunday in an election for a vacant parliament seat that could influence its future.

A loss by the governing party in the by-election is likely to embolden opposition parties which launched a parliamentary boycott Wednesday, demanding that leading politicians and others be summoned to testify on recent bribery scandals.

Analysts say the balloting — the first for a parliamentary seat since Mr. Miyazawa assumed his post in November — may also indicate how the governing Liberal Democrats will fare in a general upper house election set for July.

Mr. Miyazawa's popularity has slumped as a result of a series of bribery scandals, growing tensions with the United States, and the failure of key administration-backed bills in parliament.

Support for his administration fell by 3.7 percentage points in January to 40.3 per cent, while the disapproval rate climbed to 43.2 per cent, according to a poll by the newspaper Yomiuri Shimbun.

The election, in Nara Prefecture in western Japan, pits Liberal Democratic candidate Nobuharu Enoki, 52, against Yukihisa Yoshida, 65, backed by the powerful Rengo Labour Union and Socialist and Democratic Socialist parties. More than 1 million people are eligible to vote.

The election was called to fill a vacancy caused by the death in December of Kazuo Shinsaka, a Rengo-backed legislator.

An opposition victory could signal "an early fall of the Miyazawa administration, even before the general election in July, because the contest is regarded as an indication of public sentiment," said Ryotaro Iizuka, a political commentator and professor at Tokyo's Nihon University.

Armenia asks for Iranian mediation in enclave dispute

NICOSIA (AP) — Armenia's Foreign Minister met Saturday with his Iranian counterpart and called on Iran to help solve Armenia's territorial dispute with Azerbaijan over the enclave of Nagorno-Karabakh.

Tehran Radio quoted the Armenian minister, Raffi Ovanian, as saying: "We seek a peaceful solution... and we call on Iran to use its influence to solve that problem."

Iranian Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati answered: "We shall investigate the issue and will do our best to solve the problem," said the radio, monitored by the British Broadcasting Corp.

Mr. Velayati said the clashes between forces of Armenia and Azerbaijan were in neither side's interests and noted that Azerbaijan also has requested Iranian mediation, the radio said.

Iran's own Azerbaijan province shares borders with both the ex-Soviet Republic of Azerbaijan and with Armenia, both of which are now independent states.

Fighting for control of Nagorno-Karabakh has escalated sharply in the past few weeks. At least 1,000 people have been killed in four years of battling over the Armenian-populated enclave.

EC faces new challenges after treaty signing

MAASTRICHT, Netherlands (Agencies) — Signatories to the Maastricht treaty on European unity are barely dry but already the European Community (EC) faces a debate on how to finance its new ambitions and respond to pressure to expand its membership.

The signing of the 189-page treaty on European unity by the 12 EC member states Friday was celebrated with a marching band, flying flags and champagne toasts in this Dutch city, site of negotiations last December to finalise the agreement.

The two documents, which foreign and finance ministers signed on behalf of their countries, cement EC plans to create a superblock with a single market, one currency and a unified voice on the world stage.

"This is a historic moment for the 300 million-plus inhabitants of the European Community," Dutch Prime Minister Ruud Lubbers told the assembled political elite of Europe.

Even as the EC hailed this achievement, the old battle over what the Community should aspire to be remained unresolved.

European Commission President Jacques Delors made clear that his vision is a federal one — a kind of United States of Europe with strong central institutions.

"I must say that for me the federal construction remains the only one that permits clearly the sharing out of tasks and transfer

of sovereignty," Mr. Delors told the ministers.

Britain, which last year banned the use of the word federal from the treaty, spoke of a looser cooperation among states.

"These are all stages. They are not in my view, stages to a centralised Europe," British Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd said.

The treaty will go into effect after it is ratified by the parliaments of all EC member states. Germany's powerful Bundesbank chose the day of the signing to underscore its misgivings about giving up the mighty Deutsche mark for a European money — underscoring the point that the treaty vision is not yet reality.

European Parliament President Egon Klepsch complained that the treaty contains "weaknesses, deficiencies and grey areas."

"We would have preferred a clear strengthening of parliamentary powers," he said.

At least two countries, Ireland and Denmark, will put the Maastricht treaty to a referendum of their citizens.

Some of the poorer EC members led by Spain, may withhold approval by their national parliaments until the outcome later this year of negotiations on the future financing of the EC.

Mr. Delors next week is expected to open the financing debate with a call for EC members to provide more money to the bloc's budget and double aid to

the poorest regions of the Community over the next five years.

With the treaty signed, the pressure is expected to grow for the EC to open its door. The EC has not admitted new members since Spain and Portugal in 1986.

Danish Foreign Minister Uffe Ellemann-Jensen said it was symbolic that the treaty was signed on the day that Finnish President Mauno Koivisto recommended his country join the EC.

If Finland formally applies next month it will join Sweden, Austria, Cyprus, Malta and Turkey in the membership queue. Mr. Hurd said he believed three, four or five countries could be admitted to the EC in a first wave of new members in 1995.

The treaty provides for another review aimed at strengthening ties among EC members in 1996, but some believe this will be overtaken by events.

"Can we permit ourselves to wait until 1996 before convening the next IGC (Inter-Governmental Conference on Union) or will developments compel us to move faster?" Mr. Lubbers asked.

"We have passed the point of no return," he said.

Meanwhile, this dreary winter, speculation is rife about the future of Mr. Delors, the driving force in EC's historic decision to form a political union.

The burning question is whether he will stay on at the 12-nation trading bloc or return to his native France to vie for the

Croatia's Serbs demand changes to U.N. plan

BELGRADE (R) — Rebel Serb leaders in Croatia, under pressure to back deployment of a United Nations peacekeeping force in Yugoslavia, said Saturday voters in their region will reject the U.N. plan unless it is changed.

An aide to Milan Babic, president of the Serb-controlled Krajina enclave in Croatia, said a referendum there on the U.N. plan should be held in less than a month to determine whether up to 10,000 peacekeepers can be sent in.

"Judging from the climate here, without certain changes in the U.N. plan, it will not be accepted," Milan Ivanic, a close aide to Mr. Babic said by telephone from Krajina, an enclave south of the Croatian capital, Zagreb.

Krajina leaders are set to defy the U.N. Security Council which passed a resolution Friday urging all warring sides in the seven months of fighting in Croatia to give "unqualified" backing to the U.N. plan.

Croatian President Franjo Tudjman wrote to U.N. envoy Cyrus Vance saying he accepted it unconditionally but Croatian officials Friday cast fresh doubts on Zagreb's support.

"Some minor details in the signed agreement have not been cleared up because different interpretations and specific contradictions remain," the Croatian government officials said.

The resolution approved Secretary-General Boutros Ghali's proposal for an increase to his military liaison mission in Yugoslavia from 50 to 75 officers.

It also called on the secretary-general to speed up preparations for the U.N. force, reflecting the urgency felt by some European states who want U.N. troops in Croatia as soon as possible.

The European Community has expressed concern that a month-old ceasefire between Croatian militia and Serb irregular forces backed by the Yugoslav army could collapse.

The truce, another condition for the U.N. plan to go ahead, is just about holding, but Croatian Saturday reported shelling around the eastern Croatian city of Osijek and said the Adriatic port of Zadar came under artillery fire overnight.

Many Yugoslav and Western diplomats believe the U.N. plan is the last chance to avert further bloodshed in the fighting which has killed more than 6,000 people.

Yugoslav and Serbian leaders have said they will guarantee conditions for the deployment of the peacekeepers and vowed to break Mr. Babic's defiance. They have ruled out the use of force.

Mr. Babic opposes the plan because he fears replacing the Yugoslav army in Krajina with U.N. forces and disarming local Serbs would leave them at the mercy of Croatian forces.

Column 80000

Twin sisters set to make record debut at 100

TOKYO (R) — Twin sisters are to make their recording debut this month at the age of 100, Japanese newspapers said. Reports said Kin Narita and her twin Gin Kanie, who will be 101 on Aug. 1, would record some songs with children for a compact disc. It was unclear whether they would be the oldest artists ever to launch a recording career. The category is not listed in the Guinness Book of Records. Mr. Kin (which means "gold") and Gin ("silver") became a hot property in Japanese show business this year with the success of a television commercial they made for a mail order firm.

'Good samaritan' ordered to pay crook \$25,000

SAN FRANCISCO (R) — A "good samaritan" U.S. taxi driver who captured a fleeing mugger by pinning him against a wall with his cab has been ordered to pay \$25,000 for breaking the crook's leg. A San Francisco jury decided Thursday that Charles Holton, 51, used excessive force when he pinned Ocie McClure to a wall. The jury awarded Mr. McClure \$24,595. According to police reports, Mr. Holton, who has driven a cab for 25 years, saw Mr. McClure robbing a Japanese tourist in May 1989 and gave chase. Mr. McClure, now serving a 10-year prison term, asked for \$32,000 for his injuries, plus an additional sum for pain and suffering. His leg was broken in two places and required three operations. Mr. McClure's lawyer said he doubted his client would see a penny of the award since it would be used to reimburse the city for his medical treatment. Mr. Holton said he wants to appeal the jury's decision.

Deadly spider on walkabout bites back

SYDNEY (R) — An Australian office worker walked around for more than three hours with one of the world's deadliest spiders in his left shoe before it finally bit him. Peter Melville put on his shoes, walked a kilometre from his home on Sydney's North Shore, took a 45-minute train trip to work and then walked 300 metres to his city office. The funnel-web spider, which had apparently set up home in his shoe overnight, bit him one and a half hours later. "It was a really sharp pain, so I took off my shoe to have a look and this big spider ran out and scared the hell out of me," said Mr. Melville. He was rushed to hospital by ambulance but released after tests showed he had only a small amount of venom in his blood. Doctors said it appeared the cramped spider was unable to unleash its full dose of poison.

Dubliner stuck to pub toilet

DUBLIN (R) — A man got stuck to the toilet in a Dublin pub after vandals coated it with superglue. The entire bowl had to be wrench-ed from the floor so that man and bowl could be carried by stretcher to hospital where staff managed to free him. "The poor fellow was absolutely mortified as you can imagine," said the fire officer called to the scene. "The moral is: Don't sit on any public toilet bowls."

Reagan gets surprise 81st birthday party

SIMI VALLEY, California (AP) — Former President Ronald Reagan celebrated his 81st birthday with a surprise party at his presidential library. About 150 library visitors, many of them school children, were taken aboard when Mr. Reagan walked through the lobby to a cake bearing an American flag and the words "Happy birthday Mr. President." "Well, this is the most wonderful anniversary of my 39th birthday I've ever had," Mr. Reagan said, cutting the cake and taking a big bite. Mr. Reagan, who said his wife, Nancy, had other commitments, launched into an anti-smoking speech. "Here I am on the 42nd anniversary of my 39th birthday and I never smoked," he said. "If you ever get tempted by that, stay away," he said. Afterward, Mr. Reagan's staff planned a private lunch with their boss. Staff members got Mr. Reagan a protective helmet with the words "ranch boss" to keep wood chips and sawdust out of his eyes and ears when he's chopping wood at the Reagan ranch north of Santa Barbara.